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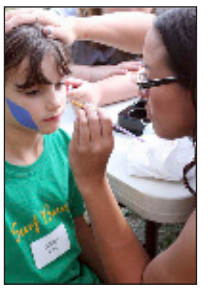

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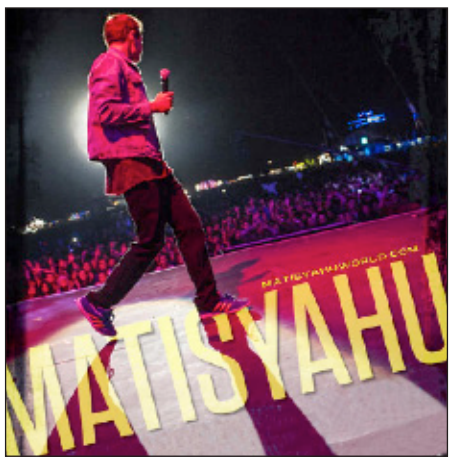
Hasidic superstar Matisyahu to perform at EMU

Martin Shichtman, special to the WJN

On Thursday, November 8, music superstar, Matisyahu will perform at Eastern Michigan University's Pease Auditorium. The concert is sponsored by Hillel at EMU, University of Michigan Hillel, and the Blind Pig.

Touring in support of his most recent recording, *Spark Seeker*, Matisyahu insists that, "While it's true that at one point it would've been pretty accurate to describe me as Hasidic reggae, for most of my career my music has been a blend, a mixture." Matisyahu's early work drew its inspiration from such divergent sources as Bob Marley, Phish, God Street Wine and Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach. *Spark Seeker*, however, represents an extraordinary musical and lyrical leap forward, brilliantly fusing ancient traditional sounds with futuristic electro beats, rapping with singing, songs of the spirit with songs of the body. Matisyahu notes, "the *Spark Seeker* digs for truth and meaning and is willing to let go of everything to find it. He's honest and authentic with himself and lives life from the inside out. He creates music from the depths and doesn't worry about what category it or he fits into."



Matisyahu

Recorded in Los Angeles and in Israel, *Spark Seeker*, brings together such musicians as Zohar Fresco, Daniel Zamir, Ravid Kahalani and rapper Shyne to produce an album that is vibrant and complex, thrilling and thought provoking.

Showtime is at 8 p.m. Tickets are available at http://www.emutix.com/ ■

Highlights of this year's Jewish Book Festival

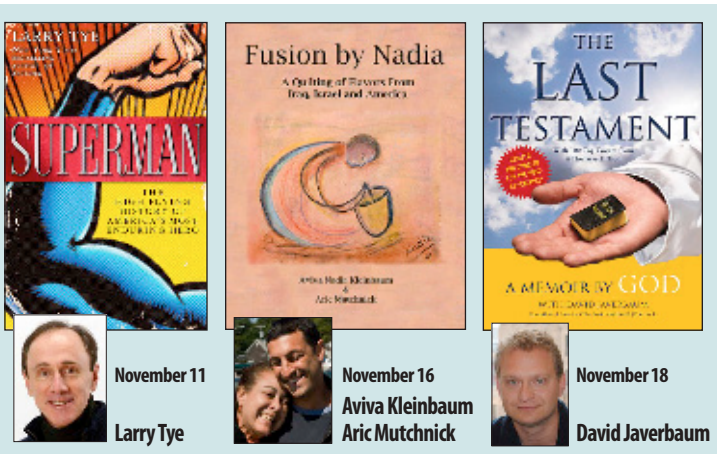
Halye Aisner, special to the WJN

The Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor's 25th annual Jewish Book Festival will include several programs during the two-week event featuring authors from across the nation and Ann Arbor's own backyard. This year will feature seven Lunch with the Author events, where participants will be able to dine with the day's featured author prior to the program. Lunch with the Author events begin at noon and are $10 in advance or $15 at the door for the cost of lunch. The author's discussions begin 12:30 p.m. and are free and open to the community.

As part of the festival, the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies will host a Scholars Night on Thursday, November 8, at 7 p.m. Authors Deborah Dash Moore, Zvi Gitelman, Harvey Goldberg, Joshua Miller, Ranen Omer-Sherman and Lisa Silverman will all participate and discuss their latest books. This event is free and open to the community.

A community favorite, Local Authors Brunch, will take place Sunday, November 11, at 9 a.m. This free event will featured authors include Barbara Cain, Andrei S. Markovits, Geri Markel, Irene Miller, Mitchell Rycus, Ivan Sherick, Ken Waschberger and Marina von Neumann Whitman.

Also on November 11 a family program with Larry Tye, author of *Superman: The High-Flying History of America's Most Enduring Hero* will begin at 3 p.m.. Children are invited to dress up as their favorite superhero, take a picture with Superman and enjoy a Superman ice-cream sundae. The cost for this entertaining event is $5 per person.



November 11 — Larry Tye

November 16 — Aviva Kleinbaum, Aric Mutchnick

November 18 — David Javerbaum

On Friday, November 16, at noon, Aviva Kleinbaum and Aric Mutchnick will lead a cooking demonstration featuring recipes from their book, *Fusion by Nadia. A Quilting of Flavors from Iraq, Israel and America*. This event will also include lunch with the authors. The cost for the event is $10 in advance or $15 at the door.

The festival will close with a bagels and lox brunch, featuring David Javerbaum, author of *The Last Testament.* David Javerbaum is an 11-time Emmy winner as a former head writer and executive producer of *The Daily Show* with Jon Stewart. He won a 2010 Grammy and recently he wrote the opening numbers for both the 2011 Tony Awards and the 2011 Emmy Awards. The cost for this event is $10 in advance or $15 at the door.

For more information or to RSVP to any of these events, contact the JCC at 971-0990. ■

MORE ON PAGE 8

Jeffrey Baden appointed new JCC executive director

Nancy Margolis, special to the WJN

The Board of Directors of the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor has announced the appointment of Jeffrey Baden as the new executive director of the JCC. Baden will begin his job in Ann Arbor on November 11.

Baden has more than 20 years of experience with Jewish Community Centers. He recently served as the executive director of the Meyerson JCC in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he managed a $7 million budget and an 80 person staff.

Harriet Bakalar, president of the JCC, said, "We are quite excited to have such an experienced JCC professional as our next executive director. Jeff will bring new ideas and energy to our community."

Baden was the director of planning and allocations for the Jewish Federation of Greater Cincinnati, where he oversaw the agency's planning processes identifying the needs of the community.

Jeff Baden

Baden and his wife, Rabbi Ilana Baden, moved to Indianapolis, Indiana, in 1999 where he became the director of Adult Services and Early Childhood Education for the Indianapolis JCC. He developed a new adult services department offering congregate meals, entertainment, trips, singles events and holiday celebrations. He also supervised the year-round childcare and preschool program of 150 children.

His early career began as the director of the JCC's Camp Livingston in Cincinnati running the camp and overseeing a 680 acre campsite. Baden then was promoted to program director at the Cincinnati JCC supervising all youth and family programs.

Baden graduated from the University of Cincinnati, received a certificate of Jewish Studies from the Florence Melton Mini-School, and also studied early childhood education at Indiana University. He has served on Cincinnati's United Way Emergency Food and Shelter committee, the Cincinnati Jewish Educators Council and the Indianapolis Jewish Educators Council. In addition, Baden says, "I am an avid music lover and play the guitar, piano and drums. I am also a magician." Baden and his wife, a Reform rabbi, have two children, ages 11 and 7.

Baden was selected after a national search headed by Robin Axelrod and Seth Penchansky. Their search committee conducted exhaustive interviews of more than 10 candidates from a field of 40 provided by the Jewish Community Center Association. ■

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November SPICE* of Life

*Social, Physical, Intellectual, Cultural, and Educational Programs for Adults

Jessica Webb, special to the WJN

Tuesdays

11 a.m.: Energy Exercise with Maria Faquhar. $4 per session.
Noon: Homemade Dairy Lunch Buffet. $3 per person.
1 p.m.: Mah-jongg and sewing.

Thursdays

10 a.m.: Energy Exercise with Maria Faquhar. $4 per session.
11 a.m.: Current Events with Heather Dombey. A discussion of this week's news. Bring in items of interest for group discussion.
Noon: Homemade Dairy Lunch Buffet. $3 per person.
1 p.m.: Thursday Special Events and Presentations (See below for details).

Special events and presentations

Thursday, November 11
Noon: Join in for a homemade dairy lunch buffet.
12:30 p.m.: Birthday celebration for all with November Birthdays. Bring family and friends for lunch and birthday cake.
1 p.m.: Marylen Oberman, a local clinical psychologist, will present on "Journaling for your Legacy."

Thursday, November 8
12:30 p.m.: A registered nurse from Care Response will provide free blood pressure checks.
1 p.m.: Book Festival presenter Lydia Rosner will speak about her book, *The Russian Writer's Daughter*.

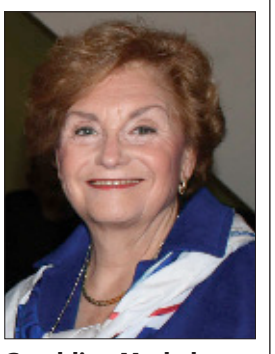
Thursday, November 15
1 p.m.: Book Festival presenter Anne Marie O'Conner will speak about her book, *Lady in Gold*.

Thursday, November 22
No events scheduled due to Thanksgiving.

Thursday, November 29
1 p.m.: Ellen Schulmeister and Diana Neering from the Shelter Association of Washtenaw County will speak about the background, sponsors and people who benefit from their organization.

Learn to be more productive and efficient

Mae Sander, special to the WJN


Geraldine Markel

The Jewish Women's Circle of Washtenaw County (JWC) will meet November 5, at 7:15 p.m., to hear a presentation by Geraldine Markel, announced Esther Goldstein, JWC organizer. Markel, an educational psychologist specializing in learning and performance, is the founder of "Managing Your Mind" and author of several books applying behavioral research to productivity. Markel will present ways to take actions against the distractions that everyone experiences. The goal will be to help participants become more productive and efficient.

"As women we need time for ourselves to nourish our body and souls. In addition, we need to consider the issue of quality time. We need focus to engage in spiritual thought and activities. There is a need to schedule and to prepare to be available. You need to invite yourself to your own spiritual party," Goldstein says. Markel's presentation will suggest ways to find time for these personal needs: taking actions against distractions. Markel will also have several of her books for sale at the meeting.

The Jewish Women's Circle provides an opportunity for Jewish women to meet new friends, socialize, and learn about a variety of issues. It is open to all, no affiliation necessary. The location for the meeting will be announced in the e-vite. Donation requested: $10. Spaces are limited. To sign up for this meeting and to receive future invitations/e-vites from the Jewish Women's Circle, send email to esther@jewmich.com. To learn more about Managing Your Mind, see the website www.managingyourmind.com. ■

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Extra copies of the *Washtenaw Jewish News* are available at locations throughout Washtenaw County.

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TBE to host Ben Steinberg and his music

Cantor Annie Rose, special to the WJN

On Friday evening, November 2, at 7:30 p.m., Temple Beth Emeth will feature the music of Ben Steinberg at Erev Shabbat services. TBE is honored to welcome Steinberg, who will conduct several selections and will share reflections on a lifetime in Jewish music. Kol Halev, TBE's adult choir, will sing three of Steinberg's most beloved works: Shomeir Yisrael, Yom Zeh L'Yisrael, and Crown of Torah, accompanied by chamber ensemble and featuring soloists from Kol Halev.

Ben Steinberg

Ben Steinberg has been one of the most beloved, prolific composers of synagogue music for more than half a century. He is well known across Canada and the U.S. for his lecture-recitals on Jewish Music history and style, and has conducted and lectured overseas in Israel, Hong Kong, Australia and Japan, among others. A widely commissioned composer of Jewish music, he has composed choral and orchestral settings, instrumental and vocal chamber music and solo works. In addition to his published music, Steinberg is author of two books on adult and youth choirs. His honors include the l983 Kavod Award from the Cantors' Assembly, the Guild of Temple Musicians' inaugural Shomeir Shira Award, honorary membership in the American Conference of Cantors, honorary membership in the American Harp Society, and the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters from New York's Hebrew Union College.

In 2001, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations presented him with its highest honor, the "Eisendrath Bearer of Light" award. He was twice honored by the City of Jerusalem, which invited him to be an artist-in-residence at its creative retreat. There he researched and wrote his cantata "Echoes of Children" which won the International Gabriel Award. He is director emeritus of music and composer-in-residence at Temple Sinai in Toronto. In recognition of his contribution to Canadian music and Jewish music worldwide, the University of Calgary (Alberta) has established a "Ben Steinberg Archive" to house his original manuscripts, scores and papers.

Kol Halev has performed Steinberg's music under the direction of Cantor Annie Rose at Temple Beth Emeth and in concerts throughout Michigan, as well as on tour in Eastern Europe. The entire community is invited to services, which will be followed by a festive Oneg Shabbat. For more information, contact Cantor Rose at 665-4744. ■

All are invited to JFS International Thanksgiving and Citizenship Fair

Cindy Klein, special to the WJN

The American Jewish community has a special connection to immigration. The families of the majority of Jewish people currently living in the U.S. arrived during the "Golden Age of Immigration", from the 1880s through the early 1950s, with the majority coming through Ellis Island from 1892–1954. The persecution of Jews through pogroms in Russia and elsewhere, political policies of anti-Semitism, and the stories of a "goldena medina" (golden land) caused many to immigrate to the U.S. The devastation of World War I and the Russian Revolution only intensified the need to leave. Between 1880 and 1924 over two million Eastern European Jews arrived in the U.S.

Among its many programs, Jewish Family Services provides a full continuum of international services. "JFS began as an organization to resettle Jewish immigrants from the former Soviet Union," said Mira Sussman, director of resettlement services. "Now, we're serving people from all over the world. From Asia to Africa, South and Central America to the Middle East, we resettle refugees fleeing from oppression and violence regardless of their race or religion." This Jewish effort to help all refugees is fueled by the Torah's instruction to welcome the stranger, "*hachnasat orchim*" in Hebrew, and also by the concept of "tikkun olam," repairing the world.

It is only natural that that JFS would help provide resettlement clients, and other refugees or immigrants who come for help with everything they need to start their new lives: English as a Second Language classes, acculturation support, clothing, food, assistance locating housing, translation services, employability skill development and assistance finding a job. The most recent addition to this stable of programs is citizenship classes. Since June, JFS has been holding classes that meet twice a week to help familiarize legal permanent residents with U.S. history and civics so they can study and pass the U.S. citizenship Interview. Nicole Graham-Lusher, JFS citizenship program coordinator states, "We've already had two people pass the exam and become U.S. Citizens, and four more have already made their appointments to take it." The success of the program lies in the small classes, individualized attention and assistance of volunteer tutors.

JFS Citizenship Classes are open to any legal resident that is eligible for U.S. Citizenship. They do not have to been resettled by JFS. "We've had people take the classes who heard about the program from a friend, or wives and families of University of Michigan professors who learned of our services," Graham-Lusher said.

As one approaches Thanksgiving one thinks about the blessing of living in the U.S., and of having all of these wonderful resettlees beginning their new lives in the freedom and safety this country. JFS is thankful that so many of the permanent residents wish to take advantage of the privileges and rights that U.S. citizenship brings them.

Join in celebrating the work of JFS in the community at the JFS International Thanksgiving and Citizenship Fair, on Sunday, November 18. This family-friendly event will be held at Cobblestone Farm, 2781 Packard, Road, from noon–3 p.m. Bring your children and grandchildren to enjoy a resource fair, learn about U.S. history and civics, taste international foods prepared by local restaurants, as well as music, children's activities, and tours of Cobblestone Farm House. Suggested donation is $7/per person or $10 per family. Donations of non-perishable foods for the JFS Food Pantry would be greatly appreciated. RSVPs are recommended (but not required) to assist with food preparation. RSVP to Cindy Klein at 769-0209 or cindyk@jfsannarbor.org. ■

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Maimonides symposium to focus on sports, head injury and depression

Jonathan Trobe, special to the WJN

I was hit and hurt so many times, I could no longer move fast enough to evade the rush."

So said Eric Hipple, former star quarterback of the Detroit Lions, in a recent interview. He was talking about being forced to retire from the Lions when he was "no longer competitive."

On December 9, Hipple will team up with Jeff Kutcher, M.D., as speakers in the upcoming Maimonides symposium entitled "Sports, Head Injury, and Depression" at the Danto Auditorium of the University of Michigan Cardiovascular Center. Most players don't see the dismissal coming, Hipple said. They are summoned to the management office, asked to turn in their playbook, thanked for their contribution, and ushered out to start a new life. After years of being on top, they are suddenly on the bottom without a support system. Is it surprising, he asks, if many of them end up broke, behaving recklessly, and sometimes attempting suicide?

He points to his own life experiences. After he retired, he ran a successful insurance business, but eventually he went into debt. Feelings of hopelessness took over and he jumped out of a moving car in a suicide attempt, creating a splash in the Detroit newspapers and on television. Fortunately he didn't sustain critical injuries. He entered into counseling, but soon after that his 15 year-old son took his own life.

Eric Hipple

As he struggled to put his life back together, he was determined to transmit his insights to other athletes. He attended a community-outreach luncheon organized by John Greden, M.D., director of the U-M Depression Center and former chair of the U-M Department of Psychiatry. Greden saw that Hipple's skills and experience would make him an ideal spokesperson for the Center's effort to reduce the stigma of help-seeking behavior by athletes.

In 2009, Hipple convinced the National Football League Players Association (NFLPA) to allow him to mail a standard survey to former players to discover how many of them were depressed. Completed questionnaires came in from over 1600 former players. More than 15 percent indicated signs of moderate to severe depression, higher than the percentage in age-matched men in the United States.

Faced with this alarming information, the NFLPA agreed to sponsor a program in which athletes would be invited to come for assessment of depression at the U-M Depression Center. For the past 18 months, former NFL players have been coming from all over the country to Ann Arbor to be evaluated and connected with appropriate support systems in their own communities.

In a program called "Under the Helmet," sponsored by the Michigan Department of Education, Hipple alerts high school coaches, teachers, and athletes in 24 schools to behaviors that suggest alienation, anger, and depression. What does he tell them? About recognizing good and bad choices, the consequences of those choices, and that they have more control than they think they have. Do they listen? "At first the young athletes ignore me," he says. "But when I explain who I am and where I've been, I see them getting engaged."

The recent explosion in news that repetitive concussions in contact sports can lead to cognitive decline and depression has helped break down the barrier to help-seeking among athletes, Hipple says. Being depressed as a high-performance athlete may not be cool, but blaming it on frequent knocks on the head is socially acceptable.

Just how much is known about concussions, confused thinking, and depression? That has been the special interest of Jeffrey Kutcher, M.D., associate professor of Neurology at U-M, who will join Hipple at the Maimonides podium on December 9. Trained in neurology at U-M, Kutcher is the director of Michigan NeuroSport, a U-M sports neurology program devoted to research, education, and clinical care. On football Saturdays, you can spot him on the sidelines with the U-M football team, waiting to check out a dazed player as he comes off the field.

The connection between concussion and cognitive decline came to the fore, Kutcher recalls, with Mohammed Ali, the boxing champion, displayed the slowed movements and mentation typical of Parkinson's disease. Ali's disease was called "dementia pugilistica" because it seemed to occur in boxers. In that condition, neuropathologists later identified accumulation deep within the brain of a protein called tau. As time went on, similar changes were found in athletes who played other contact sports like football and hockey,

Jeff Kutcher, M.D.

so the condition was renamed "chronic traumatic encephalopathy", or CTE.

Although other physicians have long had a close tie to athletics, neurologists are a recent add-on, Kutcher says. As short a time as 10 years ago, neurologists' role in athletics was mainly to help determine when an athlete should be retired from play. But as time went on, research in animals began to show that head banging without adequate recovery time was detrimental to the brain. Now more colleges competing at the highest (Division 1) level are starting to have a neurologist at the sidelines and in the training rooms.

When he started in the field 8 years ago, Kutcher found that most sports programs were testing players with a complicated 30-minute battery of tasks to screen for symptoms of brain concussion. "I took the test myself and was surprised at how difficult it was, and I didn't have a concussed brain!" said Kutcher. He found that fatigue, emotional factors, and lapses in motivation interfered with test performance. Together with the rest of the Michigan medical staff, he implemented a simpler test that assesses reaction time, memory, concentration, pupils, eye movements, finger pointing, and balance on one leg. If athletic trainers see that a player coming off the field appears "off," players are sent to Kutcher or one of the other "team docs" for a check out. After asking some probing questions, the doctors will decide whether to take the athlete back to the locker room for more detailed assessment. The sports staffs have nowadays become so risk averse, he says, that if there is any question, that player will not return to the game.

Kutcher points out that judging whether a player has had a head injury is difficult. Standard test batteries are fine, he says, but much better is using his experience as a neurologist and "knowing the player so you can tell whether he just isn't himself." He gets to know the players, not just on the sidelines, but in the training rooms, at home, and on the road. He also depends on the athletic trainers, whom he credits with invaluable fingertip experience.

The question everyone asks him now is "how much of the depression being uncovered among former football players is due to repeated brain concussion?" That issue is still unsettled, he answers. Although the pathology of CTE involves the very parts of the brain associated with mood swings and uninhibited behavior, the scientific data are still not conclusive. Like Hipple, he emphasizes the other reasons high-performance athletes might get depressed, like punishing conditioning work-outs, pressure to perform, and lack of time for academic work.

In an effort to sort out the role of head impact on depression and other damaging conditions, Kutcher and the University of Michigan Athletic Department have begun a collaboration with the athletic departments of the University of California-Los Angeles and the University of North Carolina. The three schools are monitoring athletes before, during, and for a long time after their college sports careers. Funded by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), this study is enrolling athletes in 13 sports. To measure head impact, athletes' helmets are equipped with tiny sensors. Researchers will correlate the degree of impact with the results from an astonishing array of tests—neurocognitive, depression, quality of life, neurologic, and neuroimaging.

Kutcher has put much of his energy into improving recognition of head injury. Does he thinks that that is enough or should the rules of football (and hockey and other contact sports) be modified? He doesn't think so, replying that we still do not have scientific evidence that shows that brain damage is very prevalent after playing by today's rules. Would he let his sons play football? If that was their love, then with the proper education of the coaching staff, and the appropriate resources, he would. He adds, "When you ask people who have played football in college or professionally if they would do it again, they almost always say… yes, absolutely!" ■

The December 9 symposium will run from 9 a.m. to noon and is open to the public at no charge. Breakfast will be served. Register in advance at www.jewishannarbor.org or by telephoning Cindy Adams at 677-0100.

The Maimonides Society is a nationwide organization of Jewish physicians and dentists. In Ann Arbor, the Maimonides Society symposia are held twice each year and are open to the public at no charge.

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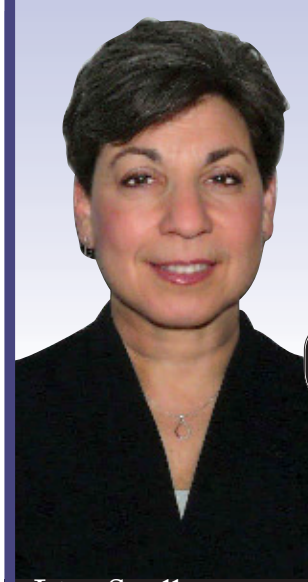

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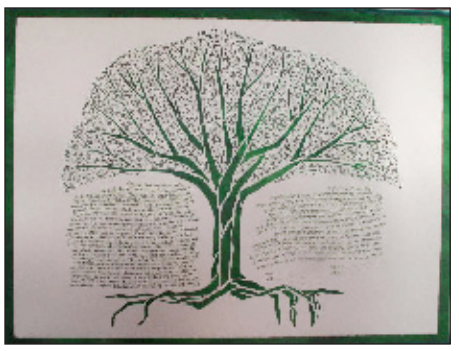
Happening at the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies

Kimberly Kunoff, special to the WJN

Reception for Deborah Ugoretz's exhibit of Ketubot

November 5, 5 p.m., at 202 South Thayer St., Room 2000

Beginning November 5, the Frankel Center will showcase the exquisitely intricate paper-cut Ketubot of Deborah Ugoretz, who has been creating Ketubot since 1975. After a visit to the Jewish Museum in the 1970s, she developed a fascination with works in cut paper and has been "cutting" ever since. A master cut-paper artist and teacher, she has developed and taught courses about the art of Jewish paper-cutting and manuscript illumination at Solomon Schechter Day Schools , at the Yivo Institute Klezcamp/Living Traditions Folk Arts Camps, the Workman's Circle Summer Cultural Experience and at the Museum at Eldridge Street. She has lectured widely about Jewish paper-cutting and her papercuts have been included in many exhibitions and collections. Ugoretz also designs stained glass windows and synagogue art. From 2003 until 2011, Ugoretz was an organizer and participant in an Artist Beit Midrash, a group of artists who study Jewish texts with a scholar and then create visual interpretations.



What Can Poetry and Literature Teach New Mothers? Health Promotion and the Early Arab-Zionist Conflict

November 8, noon, 202 South Thayer Street, Room 2022
Presenter: Andrea Siegel, Frankel Fellow

In Palestine during the British Mandate period, a key Jewish social service organization published a book series to help new mothers make decisions about the health of their children. What Andrea Siegel finds fascinating about these books is that they combine popular science articles with excerpts from Jewish poetry and literature, both ancient and modern. She thus wishes to situate these books at the nexus of medical humanities and the history of public health education, to ask larger questions about the cultural contexts in which health messages are transmitted to target audiences. Arguably, Siegel argues, the books are indicative of a wider conversation about hygiene, eugenics, and sexology via which Zionist doctors, writers, and artists thought through the Arab-Zionist encounter in the wake of the 1929 Arab riots.

Luke and the "Jews" in Acts: "Anti-Semitic" or "Too" Semitic?

November 15, 12 noon, 202 South Thayer Street, Room 2022
Presenter: Isaac Oliver, Frankel Fellow

Several scholars have qualified Luke's writings as "anti-Semitic" because Luke uses the problematic and controversial designation "the Jews" to label those who oppose the Jesus movement. The aim of Isaac Oliver is to revisit this sensitive issue in an attempt to understand the usage of such nomenclature within its original historical context while simultaneously acknowledging the terrible and unfortunate effects such libeling has generated for the Jewish people in the long run. Nevertheless, he says, the usage of such terminology does not reveal an anti-Judaism on Luke's part when one looks at the original social-historical environment in which he penned his writings. On the contrary, Oliver adds, Luke's ideology proved to be "too" "Jewish" for many non-Christian Jews of his time.

Ritual Mutuality Among Muslims and Jews in North Africa

November 29, 12 noon, 202 South Thayer Street, Room 2022
Presenter: Harvey Goldberg, Frankel Fellow

At an official level the religions of Islam and Judaism were set apart, but in everyday life in parts of North Africa there were ritual practices in which members of both groups participated and at times complemented one another. Examples are calls for the Jews to pray for rain in years of drought, parallel to Muslim special prayers, or the provision of greens and foodstuffs at the end of Passover, on the part of Muslims in Morocco, enabling Jews to prepare a festive table as part of their Mimuna celebration. Several examples will be discussed, and lines of interpretation will be suggested as to the factors shaping these overlapping ritual occasions.

The Art of Loss: Madame d'Ora, Photography, and the Return of Jewish Property After the Holocaust

December 6, 12 noon, 202 South Thayer Street, Room 2022
Presenter: Lisa Silverman, Frankel Fellow

In 1956, at age 75, photographer Madame d'Ora [Dora Kallmus], best known for her vibrant portraits of twentieth-century artists and intellectuals, completed a series vividly depicting the brutality of Paris slaughterhouses. Although at the time she was barely earning a living, beginning in 1948, d'Ora spent countless hours making the rounds of Parisian *abbatoirs* taking hundreds of photographs featuring animal carcasses lying in pools of their own glistening blood, shapeless heavy masses of skin and fat, rough hides, and severed heads. While undertaking this project, she was also engaged in a legal battle for the restitution of her and her sister's Aryanized house in Austria. Silverman's talk will explore the ways in which d'Ora's slaughterhouse photographs address issues of loss that cannot be fulfilled by property restitution alone; at the same time, showing how the return of property points to a "re-possession" of personhood inaccessible through means other than restitution. This idea of a "propertied" (and dispossessed) self-understanding can be understood both as a part and as a recasting of a wider preoccupation with the restitution of the property of Jewish Nazi victims. ■

Partners in Care Program provides friendship and assistance

Cindy Klein and Diane Fenske, special to the WJN

Going to a medical appointment alone can be a challenging experience for an older adult. Finding the right office, navigating safely, finding transportation, having questions answered, noting medication changes, or understanding instructions for follow-up care can be areas of concern or fear.

Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County is assisting older adults facing these challenges with their Partners in Care Concierge™ program (PiCC). (The program was formerly called Patient Partners.) It's not always possible for family members to take time away from work to accompany a loved one; and for those who no longer drive, affordable transportation that provides door-through-door assistance is difficult to find.

A PiCC Partner is a trained volunteer who puts the client at ease with a visit before the appointment; then accompanies the individual to the appointment with the JFS van service. The Partner supports the patient, helps schedule new appointments, makes notes about discussions that occurred during the visit, and facilitates the client's return home safely with notes in hand.

The PiCC program won the 2011 Goodman Award from the Association of Jewish Family and Children's Agencies and was recognized for its innovative approach to medical accompaniment for older adults.

Patty Benson was one of the first volunteer Partners in the program. "JFS' former Older Adult Services Coordinator asked me to consider volunteering because of my medical background (as an occupational therapist), so I decided to give it a try. She very carefully matched me to the late Morris Bornstein, a retired professor of economics, because he needed someone who paid great attention to detail. We met before his first appointment and discussed his concerns, and it was clear after the visit that Morris was pleased that I had been there to take notes and provide support for him. I asked him if he wanted me to become his long-term match, and that was it. We were partners for the two or three years he was in the program," she said.

Over the years, Morris and Patty developed a special relationship. Benson saw Morris almost weekly, as he had a number of chronic medical conditions he was receiving treatment for. Benson said, "Morris had high standards for himself and for everyone around him, and I felt honored that he trusted me to support him during his medical visits. We had great conversations about just about everything while sitting in the waiting rooms, and grew closer with each visit. At first glance, Morris didn't appear like a person who would let many people into his life, but I came to know him as a warm and caring person. He always asked about my family, and how I was doing, even though he was the one with the medical issues."

Benson said that she got to know Morris' physicians quite well. The doctors and the medical personnel in their offices always welcomed her as a patient advocate and seemed pleased when she helped to facilitate their interaction with Morris. "I felt like I had an important role to play and that my assistance was valuable," Benson stated. "I love being involved with this program. I find it extremely rewarding, and it is so necessary for people to have this kind of support. The fact that I developed a long term relationship with Morris was an added bonus."

Some of the visits could be somber. Eventually, Morris' health problems became more chronic, and as his health declined, Patty saw him less frequently. "It got so that I truly longed for his smiles and his bits of humor," she said. Morris Bornstein passed away on September 25, 2012. His wife, Reva, said "I was so happy that Patty was able to assist Morris and provide information from his doctors to his caregivers. And Patty is the kind of person you'd want for your best friend."

The role Patty and all the JFS Partners play is a valuable one. Without the volunteers, JFS would not be able to assist these older adult clients in their efforts to be compliant with their health care appointments and remain independent. PiCC "Partners" accompany clients to appointments with primary care physicians, ophthalmologists and opticians, hearing aid centers, physical therapy appointments, procedures such as cataract removal, pacemaker checks, etc.

If you are interested in having a Partner volunteer to assist with medical appointments for yourself or a family member, contact Jewish Family Services for more information. The agency is always in need of volunteers. The ideal volunteer candidate is an individual who has been a caregiver in the past; has medical social work or nursing experience; a rehabilitation therapist; etc. Training is provided for this role by the agency. All requests for information can be directed to Diane Fenske, geriatric services coordinator, at 769-0209, ext. 216, or diane@jfsannarbor.org. ■

Chabad's Jewish Learning Institute offers a course on exploring one's core

Naftoli Silberberg, special to the WJN

The Rohr Jewish Learning Institute (JLI) will present "The Kabbalah of You: A Guide to Unlocking Your Hidden Potential", the institute's new six-session Fall 2012 course that will begin on Tuesday, November 20.

Rabbi Aharon Goldstein of Ann Arbor Chabad House will conduct the six course sessions at 9:30-11 a.m. and at 7:30-9 p.m. on Tuesdays, November 20–December 26, for a total of six weeks, at the Chabad House and Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor.

"As diverse as our talents and interests may be, there is an underlying core that is common to all.," said Rabbi Naftali Silberberg of JLI's headquarters in Brooklyn. "We all share that humanity, that dignity that makes our lives immeasurably valuable. The Kabbalah of You addresses that core."

Through the examination of the entire spectrum of what it means to be human, The Kabbalah of You offers recipes, tips, and techniques for not only discovering where your true meaning lies, but in actually making it a part of your daily existence. These sessions will help you see life as the mysterious, challenging, and satisfying wonder that it really is.

"Bringing light to what it is that makes you YOU will enable you to discover new depths of meaning that will have an impact on every aspect of your existence," said Silberberg. "Joy, contentment, courage, self-control, a meaningful relationship with God, beautiful relationships with others—these are some of the benefits of being in sync with your deepest self."

Like all previous JLI programs, The Kabbalah of You is designed to appeal to people at all levels of Jewish knowledge, including those without any prior experience or background in Jewish learning. All JLI courses are open to the public, and attendees need not be affiliated with a particular synagogue, temple, or other house of worship.

Interested students may call 995-3276 x2 or visit www.myJLI.com for registration and other course-related information. JLI courses are presented in Ann Arbor in conjunction with the Chabad House

JLI, the adult education branch of Chabad Lubavitch, offers programs in more than 350 U.S. cities and in numerous foreign locations, including Australia, Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Israel, the Netherlands, Russia, South Africa, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and Venezuela. More than 250,000 students have attended JLI classes since the organization was founded in 1998.

Some of the graduates of last winter's JLI class

Course overview and outline

There is one thing that is always present in your life. Not your body, for sometimes you soar aloft in thought or meditation. Not your heart, for there are things that preoccupy you about which you are indifferent. Not your intellect, for there are times when your mind must rest.

But no matter what state you are in, no matter your thoughts, mood, or level of awareness, it is always you who is in that state.

Welcome to The Kabbalah of You, a journey of discovery, in which we will ask—and answer—the most fundamental question of all: Who is the mysterious being at the heart of what it is to be … you? The same Kabbalah that leads us up and beyond the highest heavens also leads deep within to explore the divine mystery of your soul.

Lesson 1: Uniquely Human

No matter where, no matter when, humanity searches for the ultimate. We are transfixed by a sense of self, and despite the enduring mystery of what a self actually is, we assign it the greatest importance. We have a sense that there is goodness and that we are meant to be aligned with it. The Jewish mystics teach that we have a drive towards the good and the Godly because that is who we are—nothing less than Godliness in disguise. This means that we have boundless possibilities; our limitations are but symptoms of the disguise that we are meant to shed.

Lesson 2: If I Am So Good, Why Am I So Bad?

If I really am nothing less than Godliness in disguise, why do I fall short so often? Surely, none of us have realized our infinite potential, and our awareness of that is a heavy weight. Our need is to weave a web of concrete awareness that assures that every aspect of our life is imbued with our core consciousness. This doesn't happen naturally; we must partner in our own creation. We must be artists, making every one of our brushstrokes an expression of the infinite beauty and truth that is our very identity.

Lesson 3: A Question of Joy

We all know the feelings of sadness and misery and are never content to rest in them; we seek a good that we experience as good. We are guided towards the experience of good by the questions we ask in our search. What do we seek? If we seek what we want, our search will yield pleasure, physical delight—powerful, but short-lived, and can lead to self-destructive behavior. If we seek rather what we need, we will find happiness. We will then be satisfied with very little—but we can stagnate and become complacent in that satisfaction. But if we seekwhat we are, then we will find energizing joy.

Lesson 4: A Question of Faithfulness

If faith is so simple, why is it so hard? Complexities come easy to the rationalizing human mind. We craft our own sophistication and take pride in it. Faithfulness to something beyond our own grasp, something larger than our own achievements and deeper than our own thoughts demands much more of us. What we seek tolerates no clichéd response and can be satisfied by no mere intellectual answer. Knowing what we seek, we know that faithfulness to the task will require the soul commitment of all we are and all we can be.

Lesson 5: The Self That Loves Your Neighbor

Even if I can love someone else, how could I love him or her as I love myself? I take myself for granted, but the one I love is different, emerging each moment from the unknown. The mystics tell us that to truly feel love for the other, and not just to mold our actions, we need to realize that we ourselves are emerging each moment from the Infinite unknown as well. That is really who we are. When we embrace that in ourselves, then our love of our fellow human being is the living process of the Infinite coming to dwell in our own lives, whether at the solitary core of our soul or in our relations that are interwoven with every aspect of creation.

Lesson 6: Perfectly Imperfect

Let's get down to it. No matter how clever the talk about the soul and its Godly source, we know ourselves well enough to be secret experts in our own shortcomings. Others might not know our faults, but we do. So how realistic is all this talk? Perfection is for the perfect. But there is something better than being perfect. The one who gropes in the dark, whose life is a perpetual struggle, is greater than one who is "perfect." True, such a person will always know himself as one who fails—but this person more than compensates with heightened passion and unquenchable thirst. Ultimately, only such a person can make perfection stretch beyond its narrow boundaries and fill the entire world. ■

Jewish Book Festival celebrates 25th anniversary with varied programming

Halye Aisner, special to the WJN

The Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor will celebrate its 25th Anniversary with their annual Jewish Book Festival, November 5–18, at the JCC. Many compelling and diverse authors are scheduled to speak during the festival. This year's event includes Lunch with the Author events, evening and Sunday programs, a local authors' brunch, a special children's program and a cooking demonstration. All author presentations are free and open to the community. Lunch may be purchased for the Lunch with the Author events for $10 in advance or $15 at the door.

The festival is supported by the Fred and Ned Shure Endowment, as well as many local community organizations, businesses, and individuals. This year's hotel accommodations are sponsored by the Sheraton of Ann Arbor, and the sponsor reception buffet is sponsored by Lori Shepard of Simply Scrumptious Catering. Retails sponsors of the event are the Wendy and Johnny stores in the Nickles Arcade. This year, books will be provided by Barnes and Noble. Over 800 titles will line the halls and fill the lounges of the JCC.

This year's Book Festival committee includes Richard Adler, Sally Adler, Bernie Banet, Charles Butter, Mimi Chapman, Annette Fisch, Alice Fishman, Susan Flint, Judi Gourdji, Nancy Leon, Lisa Molnar, Sue Rebner, Martin Stolzenberg, Esther Ullman, Jodi Wallo and Elise Weisbach, whose time and dedication help bring the festival to fruition.

For more information or to become a sponsor, visit www.jccannarbor or contact Karen Freedland at 971-0990 or karenfreedland@jccfed.org.

Monday, November 5

7 p.m.: A conversation with Zoe Fishman, author of *Saving Ruth*.
Moderator: Alice Fishman

Sving Ruth is the story of a woman who dreamt of being a blond Baptist cheerleader.

Zoe Fishman

But as a curly-haired Jew with a rampant sweet tooth and a smart mouth, this was an impossible dream. Not helping the situation was her older brother—a soccer star whose good looks, smarts, and popularity reigned at school and at home. College provided an escape route and Ruth took it. When Ruth returns home to the South for the summer after her freshman year at college, a near tragedy pushes her to uncover family truths and take a good look at the woman she wants to become. Zoe Fishman is the author of *Balancing Acts*. She lives in Atlanta, Georgia, with her husband and newborn son, Ari.

Wednesday, November 7

Noon: Eileen Pollack, author of *Breaking and Entering*.
Lunch with the Author. $10 in advance or $15 at the door.

12:30 p.m.: Author presentation
Author presentation is free and open to the community.

Set against the tragic events of the Oklahoma City bombings, *Breaking and Entering* follows a Christian/Jewish couple as they move from California to rural Michigan with their daughter, in an attempt to save their marriage. On their voyage, they find their core beliefs about life and love tested. *Breaking and Entering* challenges the stereotypes we hold about our fellow Americans, reminding us of the unexpected bonds that can form across the divide between so-called Red and Blue states.

Eileen Pollack

Eileen Pollack is an American novelist, essayist, and short story writer. She is the director of the Master of Fine Arts Program at the University of Michigan. Pollack holds an undergraduate degree from Yale University and an M.F.A in creative writing from the University of Iowa. She currently resides in Ann Arbor with her son.

7 p.m.: Aaron Dworkin, author of *Uncommon Rhythm: A Black, White, Jewish, Jehovah's Witness, Irish Catholic Adoptee's Journey to Leadership*

Uncommon Rhythm is a harrowing yet moving account of Aaron's personal journey through social isolation and discrimination to found the Sphinx Organization, the leading national arts organization that focuses on youth development and diversity in classical music. The book is a tapestry of stirring narrative, precious photos and poignant poems. *Uncommon Rhythm* will inspire all who have ever felt like outsiders to nurture their own gifts and make valuable contributions to society.

Aaron Dworkin

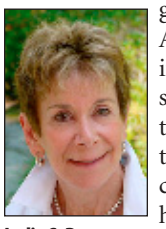
Named a 2005 MacArthur Fellow, a former member of the Obama National Arts Policy Committee and President Obama's first appointment to the National Council on the Arts. Aaron is the founder and president of the Sphinx Organization, the leading national arts organization that focuses on youth development and diversity in classical music.

Thursday, November 8

Noon: Lydia S. Rosner, author of *The Russian Writer's Daughter*
Lunch with the Author. $10 in advance or $15 at the door.

12:30 p.m.: Author presentation
Author presentation is free and open to the community.

The Russian Writer's Daughter is a collection of lively autobiographical stories about growing up in a Russian-American Jewish household in the stifling political atmosphere of the Red Scare. In this revelatory memoir, international politics shadow a child's gradual awakening to her father's humanity.


Lydia S. Rosner

Dr. Lydia S. Rosner, professor emeritus of sociology, has been on the faculty at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York since 1985. Dr. Rosner has traveled the world with a keen interest in cultures and social structures.

7 p.m.: Frankel Scholar Night

Deborah Dash Moore, author of *Jews of GothamZvi Gitelman, author of Jewish Identities in Postcommunist Russia* and *Ukraine: An Uncertain Ethnicity*

Harvey Goldberg, author of *Contemporary Jewish Collective Identities*

Joshua Miller, author of *Accented America: The Cultural Politics of Multilingual Modernism*

Ranen Omer-Sherman, author of *Narratives of Dissent: War in Contemporary Israeli Arts & Culture*

Lisa Silverman, author of *Becoming Austrians: Jews* and *Culture between the World Wars*

Friday, November 9

Noon: Caroline Stoessinger, author of *A Century of Wisdom: Lessons from the Life of Alice Herz-Sommer, the World's Oldest Holocaust Survivor*
Lunch with the Author. $10 in advance or $15 at the door.

12:30 p.m.: Author presentation
Author presentation is free and open to the community.

A Century of Wisdom is the true story of Alice Herz-Sommer, the world's oldest living Holocaust survivor. At 108 years old, the pianist is an eyewitness to the entire last century and the first decade of this one. She has seen it all and along the way coming into contact with some of the most fascinating historical figures of our time. Today Alice lives in London, where she still practices piano for hours every day.

Caroline Stroessinger

Pianist Caroline Stoessinger is artist-in-residence at John Jay College, CUNY, and president of The Mozart Academy, where lessons are tuition-free for immigrant children. Stoessinger has performed on the stages of Carnegie Hall, the 92nd Street Y, Lincoln Center and The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Stoessinger has produced and written the scripts for numerous national and internationally televised programs and public events.

Saturday, November 10, Sponsor Night

7:30 p.m.: Larry Tye, *author of Superman: The High-Flying History of America's Most Enduring Hero*

Seventy-five years after he came to life, Superman remains one of America's most adored and enduring heroes. Now Larry Tye, the prize-winning journalist and *New York Times* best-selling author of *Satchel*, has written the first full-fledged history not just of the Man of Steel but of the creators, designers, owners, and performers who made him the icon he is today. How has the Man of Steel evolved over the past eight decades — and what has made him so popular? Those were the questions that intrigued biographer Larry Tye, whose book Superman tells the story of the red-and-blue-clad icon who Tye calls "the longest-lived American hero of the last century."

Larry Tye

Tye, 57, a former reporter for *The Boston Globe, The Louisville Courier-Journal* and *The Anniston Star*, has written four other books, including bios of baseball legend Satchel Paige (*Satchel*) and public relations pioneer Edward Bernays (*The Father of Spin*) and was co-author with Kitty Dukakis of *Shock: The Healing Power of Electroconvulsive Therapy*. He lives in Lexington, Mass., with his wife, Lisa, and two children, 17 and 19, his "in-home experts on comics and kids."

Sunday, November 11

9 a.m.: Local Authors Brunch

Barbara Cain, author of *Autism, the Invisible Cord: A Sibling's Diary*

Andrei S. Markovits, author of *Sportista: Female Fandom in the United States*

Geri Markel, *author of Actions Against Distractions: Managing Your Scattered, Disorganize and Forgetful Mind*

Irene Miller, author of *Into No Man's Land: A Historical Memoir*

Ken Waschberger, *Voices from the Underground Series*

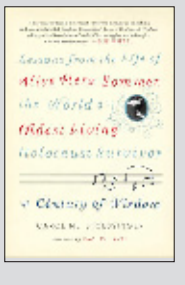
Marina von Neumann Whitman, author of *The Martian's Daughter: A Memoir*

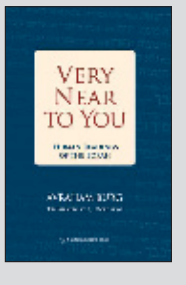
Mitchell Rycus, author of *The Soil is Dead*

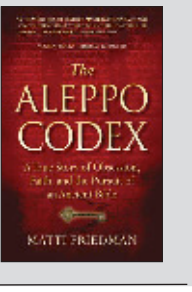
Ivan Sherick, author of *Introduction to Child, Adolescent, and Adult Development: A Psychoanalytic Perspective for Students and Professionals*

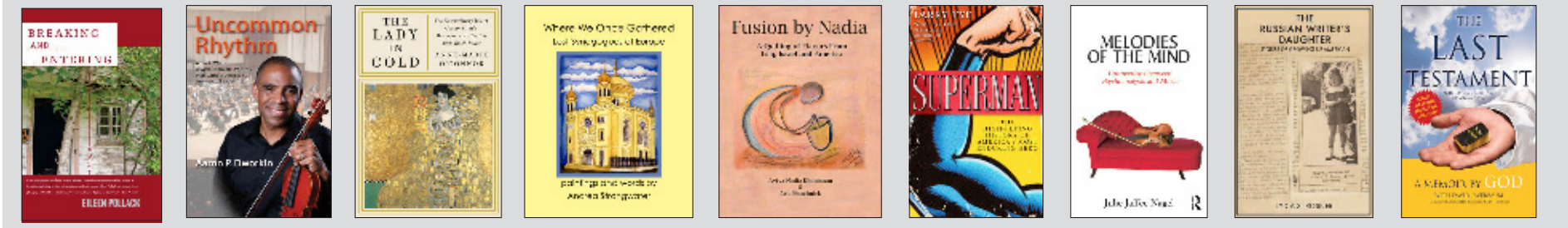
Noon: Moshe Arens, author of *Flags over the Warsaw Ghetto*

In this groundbreaking work, Israel's former minister of defense and ambassador to the U.S.A., Moshe Arens, recounts a true tale of daring, courage, and sacrifice of the fighters who









Moshe Arens

rose against the German attempt to liquidate the Warsaw ghetto, and made a last ditch fight for the honor of the Jewish people.

Born in Lithuania, Moshe Arens immigrated to Israel from the United States. He studied at the Massachusetts Institute of at the California Institute of Technology. A former associate professor of aeronautical engineering at the Technion and vice president for engineering at Israel Aircraft Industries, he has published articles in academic journals on propulsion and flight mechanics.

3 p.m.: Children's Event. Larry Tye, author of *Superman: The High-Flying History of America's Most Enduring Hero*
$5 per person

Children of all ages are invited to dress up as their favorite superhero, have their picture taken with Superman and enjoy Superman ice-cream sundaes. Meet with Larry Tye, author of *Superman: The High-Flying History of America's Most Enduring Hero*.

Monday, November 12

Noon: Daniel Milstein, author of *The ABC of Sales*
Lunch with the Author. $10 in advance or $15 at the door.

12:30 p.m.: Author presentation
Author presentation is free and open to the community.

In his book, *The ABC of Sales*, Milstein gives readers advice on how to reach their maximum sales potential and how to position their companies among the elite. Milstein's list of secrets includes "Be passionate about sales, believe in your product, take care of customers, plan ahead, be available, expand your presence, be a creative marketer, have a positive outlook and take risks," says Milstein.

Daniel Milstein

Daniel Milstein is founder, president and CEO of Gold Star Mortgage Financial Group, an Inc. 500 company. Gold Star has over 500 employees in 43 offices across the USA and has been named a Top Workplace in Michigan for three years by the *Detroit Free Pr*ess.

7 p.m.: Avraham Burg, author of *Very Near to You*

Very Near to You is a new interpretation of the weekly Torah reading. It is written from a world view deeply committed to Judaism, which places the responsibility of interpretation and identity on each one of us. Through this book the author tries to involve the reader in the language of the five books of Moses that has been present in our lives for thousands of years.

Avraham Burg

Avraham Burg is a veteran senior member of the Israeli Labor Party. A former member of Knesset, he then became Executive Chairman of the Jewish Agency for Israel. He returned to the Knesset in 1999 as Speaker. He is an advocate for spiritual pluralism and religious equality in the Israeli society and separation of politics and religion in Israel.

Tuesday, November 13

Noon: Andrea Strongwater, author of *Where We Once Gathered: Lost Synagogues of Europe*
Lunch with the Author. $10 in advance or $15 at the door.

12:30 p.m. Author presentation
Author presentation is free and open to the community.

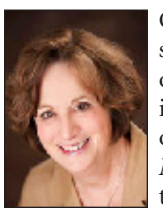
The Lost Synagogues is a collection of vibrant paintings depicting synagogues that were eradicated before and during WWII. Andrea Strongwater has researched Jewish communities across Europe to connect archival photos with written records that together tell the story of European Jewish life before the holocaust. Strongwater brings this world back to life through her art.

Andrea Strongwater

Andrea Strongwater has been an artist for as long as anyone can remember. She works out of her studio in New York City. She received her BFA from Cornell University's College of Architecture, Art and Planning.

7 p.m.: Julie Nagel, author of *Melodies of the Mind*

What can psychoanalysis learn from music? What can music learn from psychoanalysis? Can the analysis of music itself provide a primary source of psychological data? Drawing on Freud's concept of the oral road to the unconscious, *Melodies of the Mind* invites the reader to take a journey on an aural and oral road that explores both music and emotion, and their links to the unconscious.


Julie Nagel

Julie Jaffee Nagel, Ph.D. has long blended her hybrid experiences in music and mental health. She has helped numerous people understand and overcome anxiety, depression, blocks to creativity, performance anxiety, relationship issues, and low self-esteem. Her expertise in working as a therapist and as a consultant with individuals and groups with performance anxiety is recognized as exceptional.

Wednesday, November 14

Noon: Matti Friedman, author of *The Aleppo Codex: A True Story of Obsession, Faith and the Pursuit of an Ancient Bible*
Lunch with the Author. $10 in advance or $15 at the door.

12:30 p.m.: Author presentation
Author presentation is free and open to the community.

This true-life detective story unveils the journey of a sacred text — the tenth-century annotated bible known as the Aleppo Codex — from its hiding place in a Syrian synagogue to the newly founded state of Israel. Based on the independent research of *The Times of Israel* reporter Matti Friedman, documents kept secret for fifty years, and personal interviews with key players, the book proposes a new theory of what happened when the codex left Aleppo, Syria, in the late 1940s and eventually surfaced in Jerusalem, mysteriously incomplete.

Matti Friedman

Matti Friedman's work as a reporter has taken him from Lebanon to Morocco, Cairo, Moscow, and Washington, DC, and to conflicts in Israel and the Caucasus. He has been a correspondent for the Associated Press, where he specialized in religion and archeology in Israel and the Palestinian territories, and for the Jerusalem Report, and he currently writes for the Times of Israel.

7 p.m.: Ari Weinzweig , author of *A Lapsed Anarchist's Approach to Being a Better Leader*

A Lapsed Anarchist's Approach to Being a Better Leader is the newest volume in the Guide to Good Leading series, and it divulges Zingerman's "Secrets" for "Radically Increasing Workplace Satisfaction and Output." The book looks at the leadership style that has helped make Zingerman's such a special place to work and to eat. Included are essays on the energy crisis in the American workplace, servant leadership, stewardship, why everyone is a leader, Zingerman's entrepreneurial approach to management, and more.

Ari Weinzweig

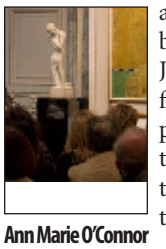
Ari Weinzweig is CEO and co-founding partner of Zingerman's Community of Businesses. Weinzweig was recognized as one of the "Who's Who of Food & Beverage in America" by the 2006 James Beard Foundation and has awarded a Bon Appetit Lifetime Achievement Award, among much recognition. Weinzweig is also the author of a number of articles and books.

Thursday, November 15

Noon: Ann Marie O'Connor, author of *The Lady in Gold, The Extraordinary Tale of the Gustav Klimt Masterpiece, Portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer*
Lunch with the Author. $10 in advance or $15 at the door.

12:30 p.m.: Author presentation
Author presentation is free and open to the community.

The spellbinding story of Gustav Klimt's Portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer, one of the most emblematic portraits of its time; of the beautiful, seductive Viennese Jewish salon hostess who sat for it; the notorious artist who painted it; the now vanished turn-of-the-century Vienna that shaped it; and the strange twisted fate that befell it.


Ann Marie O'Connor

Anne-Marie O'Connor attended Vassar College, studied painting at the San Francisco Art Institute, and graduated from the University of California, Berkeley. She was a foreign correspondent for Reuters and a staff writer for the *Los Angeles Times*, and has written extensively on the Klimt painting and the Bloch-Bauer family's efforts to recover its art collection. She currently writes for *The Washington Post*.

7 p.m.: Devan Sipher, author of *The Wedding Beat*

Gavin Greene is a hopeless romantic. He's also a professional one: He writes the wedding column for a Pulitzer Prize-winning newspaper. Everything changes on New Year's when Gavin meets a travel writer with an adventurous spirit,

Devin Sipher

but then she slips away. Gavin crisscrosses New York City to find her again, and along the way, he learns that there's something worse than losing the woman of his dreams—having to write an article about her wedding.

For more than five years, Devan Sipher has written for the Vows wedding column in the Styles section of *The New York Times*. He graduated from the University of Michigan and received an M.F.A. from the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University. He has written for other publications including the *Forward* and the *Huffington Pos*t, and he is a former junior cantor at Temple Israel in West Bloomfield, Michigan.

Friday, November 16

Noon: Aviva Kleinbaum and Aric Mutchnick , authors of *Fusion by Nadia. A Quilting of Flavors from Iraq, Israel and America*
Cooking Demonstration and Lunch with the Authors. $10 in advance or $15 at the door.

It is rare nowadays for a son to get the opportunity to spend time with his mother, especially when it is not a holiday or tragic event. These recipes are the result of over two and a half years of arguments, fighting, aggravation, and love. While this may not be the most perfectly refined example of modern cookery, it has heart and many great recipes. This cookbook is also a story. It is the journey of a woman as seen through her son's eyes. The stories paint a picture of Iraq, Israel, America and most of all, a mother's remarkable journey.

Aviva Kleinbaum and Aric Mutchnick

Sunday, November 18

Noon: David Javerbaum, author of *The Last Testament*
Bagels and Lox. $10 in advance or $15 at the door.

12:30 p.m. Author presentation
Author presentation is free and open to the community.

Javerbaum writes: "Over the course of his long and distinguished career, God has literally seen it all. And not just seen. In fact, the multi-talented deity has played a pivotal role in many major events, including the Creation of the universe, the entirety of world history, the life of every human being who has ever lived. Now, as the earth draws to a Mayan-induced close, God breaks his 1,400-year literary silence with his final masterpiece, *The Last Testament*."

David Javerbaum

David Javerbaum is an 11-time Emmy Winner as a former head writer and executive producer of *The Daily Show* with Jon Stewart. He is the coauthor of *America: The Book and Earth: The Book*, and author of the pregnancy parody *What to Expect When You're Expected*. He won a 2010 Grammy and recently he wrote the opening numbers for both the 2011 Tony Awards and the 2011 Emmy Awards. ■

Programs and classes at Beth Israel Congregation

Elliot Sorkin, special to the WJN

Interfaith Round Table Thanksgiving Celebration

Sunday evening, November 18, at 7 p.m.

This year's Interfaith Round Table Thanksgiving Celebration will take place at Beth Israel in its Main Sanctuary. The program includes readings, music, meditations and other unique presentations from a wide variety of faith traditions. Donations are accepted for non-perishable food or turkey money to help those in need in our community. After the program refreshments will be served. For more information, call Rev. George Lambrides at 424-1535 or Laurie Gailunas at 662-3654.

The Interfaith Round Table of Washtenaw County is an alliance of clergy and lay people of faith communities in Washtenaw County working with mutual respect for one another as equal partners, to provide forums for conversation among people of different religious traditions, including interfaith and inter-religious dialogue. The Round Table seeks to build bridges of friendship and understanding and to cooperate together in responding to shared concerns by articulating a larger religious perspective in the secular context, and facilitating ways in which people of faith might work together to respond to shared concerns. Over the years, many in our community have participated in one or more of the Round Table programs such as the Divine Language of Music, Faces of Faith, Places of Faith and Sacred Storytelling.

Friday Night Lights

November 16, 6 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 7 p.m. Friday Night Lights Dinner

Friday Night Lights is a family friendly service and dinner. The cost for each dinner is $7 per person, with no charge for children ages 3 and under. Everyone is welcome to attend the service, but reservations and payment for the dinner is due by noon on Wednesday, November 14, since money cannot be collected on Shabbat. This month's dinner features a pasta bar. Other Friday Night Lights will take place on January 25, March 15, and April 19.

Shabbat Limmud

Saturday, November 3, 9–10 a.m.

Rabbi Robert Dobrusin will facilitate a discussion of Jewish texts in the Beth Israel Adult Library over cake and coffee. Participants may join the Shabbat morning service at the conclusion of the study session.

Shabbat Brunch and Learn

November 17, 9:30 a.m.

Beth Israel departs from its usual Saturday schedule and offers a kiddush after the Haftarah reading on selected Shabbat mornings. During this "kiddush brunch", there will be an opportunity for extended study and discussion. Following the discussion at 12:15, the Torah and Musaf services will be conluded.

The Amazing Race

Sunday, November 4, noon

The Amazing Race is an annual team based scavenger hunt across downtown Ann Arbor. Immediately following Religious School teams of racers will gather at Beth Israel's GSAC 2010 building for lunch and a briefing on the rules of the game. The teams will then head off with their chaperons in search of their first clue. In this scavenger hunt, each clue will lead teams to another location and the next clue. Along the way they will encounter detours, roadblocks, and other challenges. The cost of this event is $10 per person. This activity is open to students in middle school and up. Those interested are ask to contact Jacob Kander at programs@bethisrael-aa.org or 769-1651

Lunch & Learn Series

Wednesday, November 7, 14, and 28;
Noon–1:15 p.m.
Garfunkel Schteingart Activities Center
2010 Washtenaw Avenue

On selected Wednesdays Rabbi Dobrusin or Rabbi Blumenthal lead informal discussions on various topics. Participants are invited to bring a dairy lunch and Beth Israel will provide drinks and dessert.

Tot Shabbat

Saturdays, November 10 and 24, 11:15 a.m.

Tot Shabbat is Beth Israel's Shabbat morning program for toddlers and preschoolers along with their families. Tot Shabbat features singing, dancing, stories, and prayers to celebrate Shabbat. The wonderful leaders of Tot Shabbat are Peretz Hirshbein on the second Saturday and Jacob Kander on the fourth Saturday of the month. Peretz Hirshbein is the Associate Director of the Early Childhood Center at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor and the current Vice president for programs on the Beth Israel Board of Directors. Jacob Kander is the Program Director of Beth Israel Congregation and has a long history of working with preschool students.

Mini Minyan Saturday November 10, 11 a.m. Mini Minyan is Beth Israel's Shabbat morning service on the second Saturday each month for all kids in Kindergarten through 2nd grade. Mini Minyan was designed in collaboration with many of the parents from Beth Israel and serves as a bridge for kids between Tot Shabbat and Kehillat Shabbat. It shares many of the favorite songs and stories from Tot Shabbat while beginning to teach prayers and incorporate activities similar to Kehillat Shabbat. The Mini Minyan service is led by program director Jacob Kander with special games and activities led by a team of parent volunteers. All parents are welcome to join in this service along with their children. Mini Minyan meets on the second Saturday of the month downstairs in room 16.

Kehillat Shabbat

Saturday, November 10, 11 a.m.

Kehillat Shabbat is Beth Israel's Shabbat morning service for kids in 3rd-5th grade. The program is designed for kids to have a great Shabbat experience, including a kid friendly service along with games and other activities each month to help teach about holidays and Jewish values while building a stronger community for the kids in a fun way. Gabe Pachter facilitates a service that is filled with student participation in the prayers, interactive discussions, and always ends with a special snack. Kehillat Shabbat is a great time once a month for elementary school students to celebrate Shabbat, to schmooze, and to learn together. Kehillat Shabbat meets on the second Saturday of the month downstairs in room 12.

Overnight homeless shelter volunteers needed

Monday, December 24 - Monday, December 31

Beth Israel Congregation will participate in the Shelter Association of Washtenaw County's rotating shelter program for one week and host up to 30 overflow guests (each night) from the main shelter on 312 W. Huron. Beth Israel is responsible for providing

Continued on next page

This month at Temple Beth Emeth

Rabbi Lisa Delson, special to the WJN

Families with Young Children (FYC): Shabbat Service times every Friday

Tot (0–5 year olds) Shabbat Services led by Rabbi Levy and Cantor Annie Rose, 5:30 p.m.

Dinner for Tot Shabbat and Sukkat Shalom, 6 p.m. Shira (Song Session), 6:30 p.m.

Sukkat Shalom (6–10 year olds) Shabbat Services lead by Rabbi Delson and Cantor Annie Rose, 6:30 p.m.

Popsicle Oneg, 7 p.m.

Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Levy

Fridays, beginning November 2, 9, 16, 30, noon–1 p.m.

The Welcome Mat: How Jews Encounter the World. Come for an informal discussion each week and feel free to bring your lunch.

Shabbat with composer Ben Steinberg

Friday, November 2, 7:30 p.m.

Ben Steinberg has been one of the most prolific composers of Jewish music for the past fifty years. This musical Shabbat service will include: Crown of Torah, Yom Zeh L'Yisrael, and Shomeir Yisrael. Mr. Steinberg will share his reflections on Jewish music and will conduct Kol Halev, soloists, and an instrumental ensemble as we all experience a Shabbat of beauty and peace. The entire Ann Arbor Jewish community is welcome. (See article, page 3.)

TNT: Comedy Club Night

Saturday, November 3, 8–10 p.m.

TNT is inviting Twenties and Thirties to the Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. Comedian Ben Creed will provide the laughs. Tickets cost $13. Meet outside of Seva Restaurant. Singles and couples are welcome. RSVP no later than November 1 to Rabbi Lisa Delson at ldelsonattemplebethemeth.org or 665-4744.

Women's Torah study

Monthly, 1st and 3rd Mondays, November 5 and 19, 7–8:30 p.m.

For centuries, women were not encouraged to study Torah. Times have changed and women are encouraged and empowered to study Torah with the same vigor as men. Join in for a unique experience to study and discuss what the Torah has to say through the voices of women. Contact Cantor Annie Rose at cantorannieatgmail.com with questions.

Basic Judaism with Rabbi Lisa Delson

Mondays, beginning November 5, 7–8:15 p.m.

Basic Judaism is a course for those hoping to learn more about Judaism. This class is for those born Jewish, studying toward conversion, or just want to learn more about the Jewish tradition. Each class will focus on a different aspect of Jewish living and learning, from holidays to Jewish texts, from celebrations to mourning. The course is free for TBE members and $30 for non-TBE members. For more information and to register, contact Rabbi Lisa Delson at ldelson@templebethemeth.org or 665-4744.

Food for thought: Jewish food book

Wednesday, November 14, 6 p.m.

November's book: Eating Animals by Jonathan Safran Foer

Rabbi Delson and Robin Little will host a book club all about food on the second Wednesday of every month. Each month the group will read a new book related to food and Judaism, from Jewish authors to ideas of kashrut and Jewish family food traditions, ethical eating, health and wellness, and holiday celebrations. The meeting begins at 6 pm but come at 5:30 p.m. and bring dinner for a chance to schmooze. Contact Rabbi Delson at ldelson@templebethemeth.org with questions.

Men's Torah study

Wednesday, November 14 and 28, 7:30–9 p.m.

Temple Beth Emeth's Men's Torah study meets twice a month for an evening of learning. Refreshments served. For more information, contact Roger Stutesman, at rgstutesmanatsbcglobal.net.

Spirituality Book Club

Thursday, November 1 noon, Tuesday, November 6, 7:30 p.m.

November's book: Here I Am: Using Jewish Spiritual Wisdom to Become More Present, Centered, and Available for Life by Leonard Felder.

Join Cantor Annie Rose for the fourth season of the spirituality book club. All are welcome to come to every meeting or on occasion for specific books of interest. Choose either the day time or evening session. Widely ranging topics highlight our list of books by: Rabbi Ralph Mecklenburger, Sylvia Boorstein, Karen Armstrong, Harold Kushner, Rodger Kamenetz, Abraham Joshua Heschel, Leonard Felder, Brian Weiss, and Michael Krasny. This book club is for firm believers, non-believers, gentle skeptics, and interested seekers. For more information, contact Cantor Rose at cantorannie@gmailcom. ■

BIC, continued from previous page

3-4 overnight volunteers staying overnight, and 3-4 drivers each morning and evening to drive the guests to and from Beth Israel.

The men permitted to participate in the program are free of serious substance or psychological issues. The guests share two characteristics: they have no place to live, and they do not currently have the resources to secure and maintain housing. Many of the Shelter's clients are unable to obtain housing on their own because they are facing multiple barriers that impede their ability to do so. They appreciate staying at Beth Israel, as the space is quieter than the main shelter.

The overnight shelter is a great way to introduce children to the world of mitzvot and community service. Spouse and children significant others, non-Beth Israel friends and relatives are all welcome to volunteer.

The 3-4 overnight volunteers split sleep and awake times as they decide among themselves, each volunteer may get about 4-6 hours of sleep between 8 p.m. and 7 a.m. Bedding is provided, but most people feel more comfortable bringing their own sleeping bags. Volunteers are encouraged to bring games, books and DVDs. Interested volunteers are asked to contact Rebecca Kanner at 994-5717 or Steve Schiff at 996-0004.

StoryCorps coming to Ann Arbor

Beth Israel Congregation was awarded a Federation Impact Grant for his project "Celebrating History With Our Stories." The nationally known StoryCorps has been contracted to implement the first phase of the project. StoryCorps is an independent nonprofit whose mission is to provide Americans of all backgrounds and beliefs with the opportunity to record, share, and preserve the stories of our lives. Since 2003, StoryCorps has collected and archived more than 40,000 interviews from nearly 80,000 participants. Each conversation is recorded on a free CD to share, and is preserved at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress. StoryCorps is one of the largest oral history projects of its kind, and millions listen to its weekly broadcasts on NPR's *Morning Edition* and on its online Listen pages.

StoryCorps will be in Ann Arbor on April 21, 22, and 23, in 2013 to record the interviewing of 18 people for 40 minutes each.

The StoryCorps personnel do not do the interviewing themselves, and they do not formulate the questions. For this task, Beth Israel has formed a committee with specialized background. This committee is led by Beth Israel past president Edward D'Angelo, and Michele Leshan, a previous board member and an effective organizer of synagogue fundraiser events. The committee includes historian Judy Endelman, current director, Benson Ford Research Center at The Henry Ford; the congregational historian, Helen Aminoff; Rich Adler, who has written a history of Ann Arbor's Jewish community; Laura Hirshbein, who is on the faculty of University of Michigan medical school and publishes on medical history; Carol Finerman, an archivist by profession and a past president of Beth Israel; and Sheila (Happy) Feigelson, a consultant and member of the National Speaker's Association. The charge of this committee is to identify the potential interviewees, develop the interview questions, and handle the logistics of the interviews. They meet about once a month.

Beth Israel will seek Impact Grant funding for phase two of "Celebrating History With Our Stories." This element of the project will involve creating a website to archive and celebrate Jewish life all over Washtenaw County.

The general community is always welcome to events

All of Beth Israel's events, educational offerings, and recreational programs are open to the general community. If you would like further information, call 665-9897 or visit www.bethisrael-aa.org, or Beth Israel's facebook page. ■

Thanksgiving: A Jewish reconstruction

Carol Lessure, special to the WJN

As we sit down to the bountiful Thanksgiving, there are many ways to elevate this traditional celebration beyond the immediate, filling communal meal. Ritualwell.org, an online project of Kolot: The Center for Jewish Women's and Gender Studies of Reconstructionist Rabbinic College, offers a number of ways to blend Jewish traditions and innovations to bring another dimension into this quintessential American holiday.

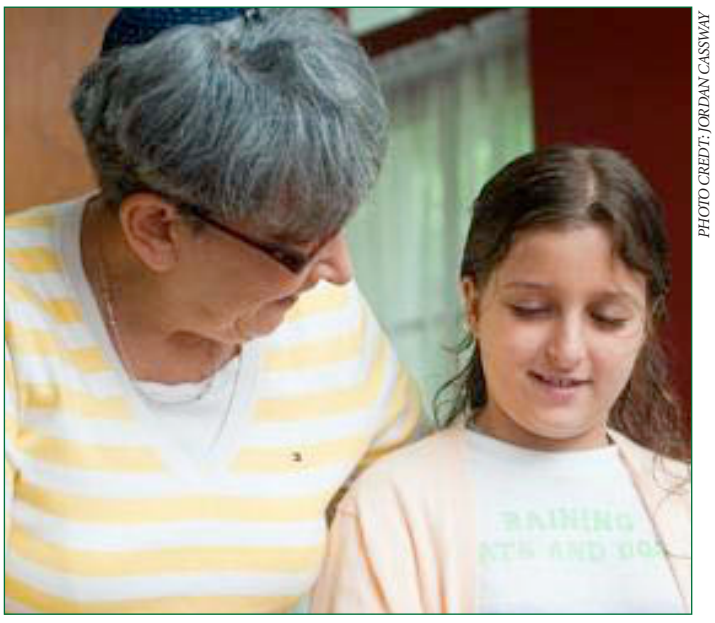


PHOTO CREDIT: JORDAN CASSWAY

Ushpizot, from the Ritualwell website

Kolot notes that many communities use Thanksgiving as a time for "for multi-faith services of prayer and thanksgiving." The members of Ritualwell offer alternatives and adaptations to the *Birkat Hamazon* as well as Psalm 100 that praises the abundant one and Psalm 128 "Song of the Ascents" from the *Kol Haneshamah Daily Prayerbook* as appropriate to the holiday. If someone is looking for a modern twist, Ritualwell offers Psalms such as *Thanksgiving Day: A Modern Psalm* by Debbie Perlman, z"l.

Kolot also directs readers to Emma Lazarus, an American Jew whose stirring poem adorns the Statue of Liberty. Her writings, poem or personal immigrant story could be shared around the Thanksgiving table and prompt an intergenerational conversation about one's own family journey to resettle in the United States. Ritualwell contributors Doris Dyen and Reena Sigmund Friedman encourage intergenerational dialogue at Thanksgiving and offer a set of questions to spark and facilitate conversations across the generations gathered around the Thanksgiving table. They suggest questions such as: "If you could talk to a former self, which one would you choose? What would you say to that former self?" or "When you were young, what was the central issue for you? How is that different from what is central for you now?" ■

To explore other rituals or suggest ones of your own, visit http://www.ritualwell.org.

Shabbaton: Making connections through advocacy and action

Rabbi Lisa Delson, special to the WJN

Temple Beth Emeth and the Union for Reform Judaism's Religious Action Center are teaming up for a weekend of study and action on Friday and Saturday, November 16 and 17. "This is the first time a congregation has asked us to run a Shabbaton for a local congregation," says Isaac Nuell, congregational social action manager for the URJ. "Our goal is to inspire the TBE community and not all of Ann Arbor. Others are welcome but our goal is not the entire community."

The Shabbaton's theme is "Making Connections through Advocacy and Action." The weekend's events will begin with a free catered Shabbat dinner on Friday, November 16, at 6 p.m. RSVPs can be sent to rsvp@templebethemeth.org. Shabbat service starts at 7:30 p.m. featuring keynote speaker Mark Pelavin, senior advisor to the president of the URJ and associate director of RAC. Pelavin will speak on the upcoming legislative priorities for the 113th Congress, focusing on the implications of the election on the reform Jewish community. He is one of the Jewish community's leading legislative strategists, and having worked in Washington for over 15 years, one of its senior lobbyists.

Saturday morning Shabbat service will begin on at 10 a.m. followed by a free kiddush lunch at 11:30 a.m. The afternoon program will begin at noon with a learning session, "Jewish Action and Becoming an Effective Advocate," led by Barbara Weinstein, RAC's legislative director, and Isaac Nuell. Before joining the RAC in 2002, Weinstein spent five years working in the U.S. House of Representatives. She began her career on the staff of former Representative and Democratic Caucus Chair Vic Fazio (D-CA) and later served on the staff of Rep. John F. Tierney (D-MA). Weinstein also oversees the RAC's Eisendrath Legislative Assistant program—a one year fellowship for recent college graduates focusing on Jewish values and social justice. Nuell joined the RAC as a Conference Planner in 2009, and spent the three years prior working with NFTY, the Reform Movement's youth organization. He currently oversees much of the RAC's program support, resource development, and strategic partnerships.

After the learning session, the program will focus on the TBE community as local advocacy experts will host roundtable conversations at 1 p.m. on Saturday, November 17, on issues for future action by TBE members, including the environment, reproductive health, education, and housing in Washtenaw County. A program for teens, in grades 9-12, will take begin at 6 p.m. that same day, with a free dinner and program, "Judaism and Anti-Bullying." The teen program is based on the RAC's flagship social justice seminars, L'Taken. Every year, nearly 2,000 high school-aged students participate in the RAC's L'Taken Seminar in Washington, D.C. The program is designed to expose students to a variety of public policy issues, explore the Jewish values surrounding these issues and teach the skills of an effective advocate. All events take place at TBE. Call 665-4744 or visit templebethemeth.org for more information.

The RAC sees congregations like TBE central to reform Judiasm. "They are the building blocks of our movement," says Nuell. "Reform Judaism isn't anything without synagogues. It's where social action and political change is inspired and begins. They can be a springboard for change that impacts congregants and families, the greater Ann Arbor community, Michigan, Reform Jews, and the world. It goes back to the civil rights movement where clergy were at the forefront of the fight before anyone else, pushing for the change that our country needed to see."

For 50 years, the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism ("the RAC") has been the hub of Jewish social justice and legislative activity in Washington, D.C. As the DC office of the Union for Reform Judaism, the RAC educates and mobilizes the Reform Jewish community on legislative and social concerns, advocating on more than 70 different issues, including economic justice, civil rights, religious liberty, Israel and more. TBE's Rabbi Robert Levy has been involved with the RAC since he first became a rabbi. "I am a strong believer in the mission of the RAC and over the years, have followed them on many exceptional programs. We are looking forward to working with them on this exceptional program."

The Shabbaton is funded by the generous support of the Sidney Davidson Scholar-in-Residence Fund. It was created in remembrance of Sidney Davidson (1919-2007), father of TBE member Vicki Goldwyn and a pioneer in the field of financial accounting. ■

November & December 2012 Concerts & Events

Belcea Quartet
Sun, Nov 11 at 4 pm - Rackham Auditorium

Beethoven Quartet in E-flat Major, Op. 127 (1825)
Beethoven Quartet in B-flat Major, Op. 130 (1825)

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Gilberto Gil
Fri, Nov 16 at 8 pm - Hill Auditorium

As a founding member of Brazil's *Tropicália* movement, Gil and fellow Bahians Caetano Veloso and Gal Costa radically reinvented Brazilian popular music in the mid-1960s by combining Beatlesque psychedelia, art rock, and Brazil's northeastern roots. In recent years, Gil has found inspiration in the joyful, upbeat, accordion-driven *forró* style of music and dance. This concert features music from Gil's latest album, *Fé Na Festa*, celebrating the music of Luiz Gonzaga.

Supported by: **Renegade Ventures Fund**
Media Partners: **WEMU 89.1 FM and Ann Arbor's 107one**

Dave Holland Big Band
Sat, Nov 17 at 8 pm - Michigan Theater

A seminal figure in post-1960s jazz, Dave Holland has never allowed his work to be limited by tradition. The Wolverhampton, England, native got his big break from Miles Davis, with whom he played during the epochal *Bitches Brew* period. This performance with his 13-piece big band is Dave Holland's third appearance since his 2003 UMS debut. "One of the very best working bands in jazz." (*The New York Times*)

Media Partners: **WEMU 89.1 FM, Metro Times, and Ann Arbor's 107one**

High-Definition Broadcast from the National Theatre, London Shakespeare's *Timon of Athens*
Wed, Nov 28 at 7 pm - Michigan Theater

Simon Russell Beale takes the title role in Shakespeare's strange fable of consumption, debt, and ruin, written in collaboration with Thomas Middleton.

Dianne Reeves Quartet with Raul Midón
Sat, Dec 8 at 8 pm - Hill Auditorium

As a result of her virtuosity, improvisational prowess and unique jazz and R&B stylings, Dianne Reeves received the Grammy for Best Jazz Vocal Performance for three consecutive recordings – a Grammy first in any vocal category. The concert opens with a set by Raul Midón, a blind singer-songwriter and guitarist whose distinct voice, strumming, beats, and vocal trumpet prompted *Guitar* magazine to call him "one of those rare musical forces that reminds us how strong and deep the connection between man and music can sometimes be."

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Media Partners: **WEMU 89.1 FM, Metro Times, Ann Arbor's 107one, and WDET 101.9 FM**

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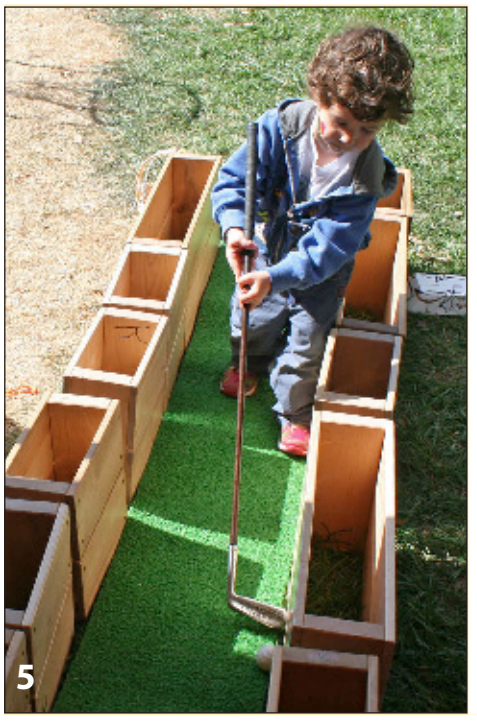
Community Photo Album

Sukkarnival, a fun celebration at the JCC

The Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor held a brand new Sukkot program on September 30, 2012. Sukkarnival was a program of carnival-themed games, face painting and other outside activities for all members of the community. Nearly 400 people attended this spirited event. The JCC welcomed 15 new families to the community that day.

Photography by Susan Kravitz Ayer
(right) The straw-bale sukkah was one of six art sukkahs on display



1. Barbara and Bernie Banet bought baked goods at the JCC table from Larry and Sarah Ashley Margolis
2. Carol Lessure talked with Karen Pollans about the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist
3. Lonnie Sussman talked with JCC interns Rachael Hoffenblum and Shayna Beth Goodman at the Maccabi team table
4. Rose and Ari Basch enjoyed the tossing game at the AA Recons table
5. Asher Stein enjoyed the golf game
6. Ishai Sussman-Yitzchaki and Rosie Meisler decorated cookies
7. Havurah Gillian Fox had her face painted by volunteer Leah Kasle

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For God's sake

Rabbi Aharon Goldstein, special to the WJN

The Torah portion we read on November 3 this year is called Vayera – when God appeared to Abraham. Toward the end of this reading we learn about the Akeida – the binding of Isaac. This was the tenth and final test that God gave Abraham. After Abraham passed all ten tests, God told him that he had proven himself to be a true God fearing Jew. The Talmud tells us that when God told Abraham to sacrifice Isaac, He used the words, "Please take your son." Why does God say please? Abraham had already taken and passed nine of God's tests. Why should God plead with Abraham? The Talmud continues to explain that God pleaded with him to complete this final test because if Abraham refused to pass this final exam, then the entire previous set of nine tests, as proofs of Abraham's devotion to God, would be invalidated.

Rabbi Aharon Goldstein

The Lubavitcher Rebbe OB"M asks the following question: If Abraham were to fail the tenth test of the binding of Isaac, why would it invalidate the previous nine tests that he had already passed? Furthermore, an earlier test, the test at Ur Kasdim, when he survived being thrown into a furnace, seems to be a greater test than the Akeida because Abraham went into the furnace on his own accord. He wasn't commanded by God as he was regarding the binding of Isaac. He was commanded by King Nimrod, the king of the realm, to either stop teaching about monotheism, the One God, or be thrown into a furnace to be burned alive. Abraham chose the furnace rather than deny God's truth. One might think that a test that Abraham did voluntarily, without God telling him to do so, should be a greater test. However, we see the opposite – the test at the Ur Kasdim furnace would have been for naught if the tenth and final test, the Akeida, was not completed satisfactorily. So we need to find out why the Akeida is so important and unique – not only in and of itself as one of God's ten tests - but also as the key determiner of the successful completion of the entire set of ten tests.

The Barbanel says that the glory of the entire Jewish people for all future generations for all time depended on the successful completion of the Akeida. Even though in subsequent generations many people, Jews and non-Jews, have chosen to put their life on the line for God, nevertheless, the Akeida is different from all of these other tests. What is it that is so unique about the Akeida?

To answer this question we first have to understand the concept of "*mesiras nefesh*" – giving up one's soul, one's life, for God. What is the true meaning of the term " self-sacrifice"? It means one is willing to give up everything – one's life and soul- to God. However, not every case of giving up one's life is considered "self-sacrifice to God". For example: sometimes people give up their life in order to be famous. They determine that there are two choices; to be famous but dead, and to be obscure but alive. To them, being famous is more important than living. So they are not considered "*mesiras nefesh.*" On the contrary, they are looking out for what is self-important. They calculate what would be greater for their own wants, needs and/or desires. It's all about them—an ego trip. Whatever maximizes their self-gratification, even dying, is worth it.

Sometimes there is a situation in which a person would prefer to live in the world-to-come rather than this world. If they are threatened with death for staying true to their religion, they calculate that it is better for them to die with their principles rather than compromise and live—this too is considered an egocentric decision.

This answers the previous question of why the test that Abraham went through in the furnace of Ur Kasdim wasn't greater than the Akeida. The willingness to be thrown into the kiln furnace wasn't God's command it was Abraham's decision. Abraham was famous throughout the world for spreading the word of believing in the one God. He was noted for denying all idolatry. His philosophy was that God was not an idol and couldn't be worshipped as such. So in his eyes, being forced to worship an idol was worse than death. Therefore it was preferable to Abraham to be thrown into a kiln furnace than to bow down to an idol. So it is possible to say that this act of heroic self-sacrifice on Abraham's part was not true *mesiras nefesh*. He did it more for the fact that it was a principle in which he believed and was unwilling, even under penalty of death, to abrogate. It was his own belief and it was what he thought was the right thing, for him, to do.

Contrast that with the test of the Akeida. It is totally opposite to what happened at the furnace of Ur Kasdim. One factor to consider is that the test of the furnace was done in public while the Akeida was done in private. Only Abraham, Isaac and God were involved. There was no public point of principle to be made as there was at the furnace. There was no possibility of an ego trip involved at the Akeida. There was nobody on which to impress a point. There was only Abraham, Isaac and God.

Furthermore, bringing his son to be a sacrifice to God was a complete contrast to everything Abraham had been doing up to this point. Abraham had been on a mission to bring the concept of the one God to the world. Isaac was to be his spiritual inheritor – to continue the work in his generation to come and to play his role in the development of the nascent Jewish people. If he were to be sacrificed, it would be the end of Abraham's mission of bringing the awareness of God into the world as well as the premature death of the budding Jewish nation and an end to the destiny of creating a dwelling place on Earth for God. In the consideration of what benefit there might be in obeying God by killing Isaac versus not killing Isaac, there is no benefit to killing Isaac. What would be the benefit? There is no public statement to be made, nobody to impress, no philosophical point to impress on someone. This would be a totally destructive act with nothing to gain. It would only end the line of Abraham and the destiny God promised to him.

Therefore, when Abraham agreed to give Isaac as a sacrifice, what did he accomplish? He went against, not only his natural fatherly feelings of love and protection for his son, but also against all of his philosophical principles and all of his ambitions to spread the name of God around the world. It all would end with the sacrifice of Isaac.

Therefore, the incident of the Akeida demonstrated true "*mesiras nefesh*" self-sacrifice. There are no benefits to the act. There is no self-interest, calculation, or aggrandizement. Abraham was willing to give up everything, his spiritual inheritor, his mission, his destiny, to obey God's will without question. That is true "*mesiras nefesh.*" Abraham bequeathed this to us. When it comes to standing up for these important principles, we're willing to give up everything – not because there is anything for us to gain – but rather only because we are doing what is right – that is, what God wants us to do. We want to cleave to God in the strongest way possible without any conditions or calculations. Thus, the merit our father Abraham incurred by the test of the Akeida is perpetuated through all our ancestors down to us and for all the generations to come in the future.

In conclusion, what we can learn and be inspired from this is that, God forbid we should ever have to be in a situation where we must choose to give up our life, when it comes time in our life to do right by God we shouldn't think of what our personal benefit might be – rather we should be inspired to do the right thing for God's sake regardless of whether or not we might personally benefit. ■

A thought for the year just begun

Rabbi Robert Dobrusin, special to the WJN

I have recently begun writing a blog at rabbirobdobrusinblog.wordpress.com. I post thoughts about both Jewish issues and events that take place in the world at large. Often I find a connection between those two.

In the first months of writing this blog, I have found that I have written quite often about the death of well-known individuals. As a member of the Baby Boomer generation (although I consider myself a very late baby boomer, having been born in 1955), it seems like we have lost many individuals recently who have been cultural icons and inspirations in our lives.

Rabbi Robert Dobrusin

There have been so many that it is difficult to know where to start. So, I'll start with television. This year saw the death of Andy Griffith, the gentle sheriff of Mayberry who reflected an idealistic portrait of small town America. Somehow, it seems like our lives were safer with Sheriff Andy on the job.

Then there was Dick Clark. Whether hosting *American Bandstand* (for the older baby boomers) or the *$10,000 Pyramid* or *New Year's Rockin' Eve*, his smiling, young face made us believe that we could stay young forever.

And there were so many others: musician Marvin Hamlisch, astronaut Sally Ride, and writer Nora Ephron. Then there is one whose name will not be familiar to many, but whose impact on my life as a pre-teen cannot be overstated: Norman Sas, who invented the game known as "electric football". The enjoyment that that game brought me and my friends is secondary to the frustration that it brought to our lives, as anyone who ever tried to make the players in the game do what you wanted them to do can attest to.

But, there were two people on this list that stand out for me. Each year, I write a prayer for Rosh Hashanah to share with our congregation on the first night of the New Year. This year, I wrote a very brief prayer dedicated to the memory of these two individuals.

One is science fiction author Ray Bradbury. I am not a huge science fiction fan, but I read many of Bradbury's stories in high school and some have stayed in my mind ever since.

The story that is most meaningful to me is his classic tale "Kaleidoscope." I would not presume to reveal the details of this story; better you should read it yourself, and you can find it quite easily on the Internet or in print. In general, the story centers on an astronaut who laments the lack of meaning his life has had. He wishes he could make up for this horribly empty life and, in fact, does positively affect another's life in a way he could never imagine. I'll leave the story here except to quote the final three words of the story: "Make a wish".

The second individual whom I particularly recall is Neil Armstrong. His first step on the moon—seen through that fuzzy, grainy camera shot—was the most unforgettable public experience I have ever witnessed. His intelligence and his courage defined a generation of pioneers in space travel.

But, what was most impressive about Neil Armstrong in the long run was his humility, modesty and grace. It seems that today, celebrity status comes with an unavoidable inflated ego and desire for publicity. Neil Armstrong avoided every attempt that was made to elevate his status and draw attention to his achievement. He preferred to live quietly after his great accomplishment, and what a wonderful lesson that is for all of us.

In my brief prayer, I expressed the hope that we learn from these two individuals, the creative author and the scientist.

> *May we always make wishes, always dream, always imagine and always approach life with a boundless creativity and curiosity. As we take small steps and giant leaps in the real world, may we always make the most of the talents we have to experience our greatest adventures and make our grandest dreams and most daring goals come true. And, may we celebrate our successes quietly and modestly, remembering there is so much more work to do.*

May we all have a peaceful, healthy 5773. ■

Solving hunger means sharing the wealth

By Ari Weiss

NEW YORK (JTA)—To eat: a cup of black beans, a few ounces of pasta and a bit of tuna. To drink: water.

This was my dinner menu one Friday night last November as my fellow dinner guests dined on standard Shabbat fare: homemade challah, two types of salad, chicken prepared three ways, three bottles of wine, four side dishes, cake and fruit for desert, tea. I generally look forward to Shabbat dinner, but I had decided that week to join rabbis and faith leaders across the country to participate in a food stamp challenge.

The average recipient of aid in the government's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, receives $31.50 in benefits per week.

Some background about the challenge, which this year is being held November 11-17: The average recipient of aid in the government's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP—commonly known as food stamps—receives $31.50 in benefits per week. That works out to $4.50 a day or $1.50 a meal, assuming three meals a day. In participating in the food stamp challenge, I had committed to spending only $31.50 on food and drink for a week, including Shabbat. I did so for two related reasons: to deeply understand the day-to-day reality of the 45.7 million Americans who receive federal aid each week necessary for their survival, and to have this knowledge lead me to act to ensure that this essential strand of the social safety net would not be cut in proposed deficient reduction legislation.

Growing up, my family never required government assistance. The day after that Friday night dinner, while at shul, I realized how lucky I was: A friend had heard about my participation in the food stamp challenge and confided to me that her family had received food stamps throughout her childhood. Without this form of government assistance, there were times when she would have gone hungry. She wanted to remind me that hunger is not just an issue for gentiles, that there are many in the American Jewish community who struggle with food insecurity as well.

This conversation, as well as many others I had during the week I participated in the challenge, left me with a deep awareness of the fragility of my own life circumstances. My middle-class family had the resources to nurture me as I grew, and I realized that the wealth and privilege I enjoyed growing up was a matter of mere chance and therefore not a predicate of fairness. My life would have been much different were I born to parents who were food insecure or did not provide an environment that would nurture me and allow my talents to flourish.

But if the circumstances of life are based on luck, in what sense can I claim, with integrity and as a matter of justice, that my resources belong solely to me?

A variation of this line of reasoning is forcibly argued by John Rawls in "A Theory of Justice," perhaps the most influential social justice work of the 20th century. But all great philosophical works have a pre-history, and the idea that wealth is not our own is a core teaching of the Torah.

Time and again, the Torah reminds us that the land, the generator of wealth in the agrarian economy of the Bible, is God's: "For mine is the land, for you are sojourning settlers with me" (Leviticus 25:23).

The Jewish people are graced with our wealth and property by God; we cannot claim it as our own. As the Torah tells us in Deuteronomy 9:4, "Do not say in your heart … through my merit did the Lord bring me to take this land." Rather it is through God's goodness that we enjoy the land's bounty.

This leads to the great concern of the Torah's teaching about wealth, to a delusional narcissism that prioritizes our efforts and forgets that our capacity to create wealth transcends individual effort: "Lest you eat and be sated," the Torah warns, "and build goodly houses and dwell in them. And your cattle and sheep multiply for you, and all that you have will multiply for you … And you will say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand made me this wealth.'" (Deut. 8:12-13:17).

The fantasy of the wealthy, who believe that wealth is generated solely through individual effort, could not have been stated better by Ayn Rand. Yet the Torah straight on counters the myth of the self-made person: "And you will remember the Lord, your God," the Torah informs us, that it is God and God alone "gives you power to make wealth" (Deut. 8:18).

If all this is correct and the core biblical teachings about wealth are that it originates with God who gifted it to us, then what are the conditions of its use? Here, too, the Torah provides the answer: If we receive wealth as a gift from God, it is essential that we in turn gift it to those in need.

Throughout the Torah there are various avenues through which this is accomplished, from tithing to leaving a corner of a field for the poor, and so on. All these commandments stem from the same fundamental motivation: our wealth is not completely ours, therefore we do not have complete control in its use. The 16th century commentator Rabbi Moshe Alshech could not have said it clearer when he wrote that "do not think that you are giving to the poor from your own possession, or that I despised the poor person by not giving him as I gave you. For he is my son, as you are, and his share is in your grain; it is to your benefit to give him his share from your property."

All this brings me back to SNAP and my participation in the food stamp challenge. Based on my experience and my understanding of the Jewish tradition, I deeply believe that my station in life is accidental, the nourishment that I received as a child was due to circumstances beyond my control, unlike billions around the world and millions in America who lack this basic security.

If so, then I have an obligation to share the wealth that God has given me to ensure that those born without it have the same privileges and opportunities that I enjoy. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program is a necessary part of this social safety net. To make sure it remains there, I ask that you join me take the food stamp challenge on November 11-17. ■

(Rabbi Ari Weiss is the executive director of Uri L'Tzedek, a social justice organization of the Orthodox movement.)

Man with a mission: Pianist revives music created in concentration camps

By Ruth Ellen Gruber

TRANI, Italy (JTA)—Francesco Lotoro resurrects the music of the dead.

Since 1991 the Italian pianist has traveled the globe to seek out and bring to light symphonies, songs, sonatas, operas, lullabies and even jazz riffs that were composed and often performed in Nazi-era concentration camps.

"This music is part of the cultural heritage of humanity," Lotoro, 48, told JTA after a concert in Trani, a port town in southern Italy, that featured surprisingly lively cabaret songs composed in the camps at Westerbork in the Netherlands and Terezin (Theresienstadt) near Prague.

The concert formed part of Lech Lecha, a weeklong Jewish culture festival in early September that took place in Trani and nine other towns in the Apulia region, the heel of Italy's boot.

Francesco Lotoro

"When I started seeking out this music, my interest was based on curiosity, on passion," said Lotoro, who was the festival's artistic director. "I felt that someone had to do it—and that someone was myself. Today it has become a mission."

Lotoro has collected original scores, copies and even old recordings of some 4,000 pieces of what he calls "concentrationary music"—music written in the concentration camps, death camps, labor camps, POW camps and other internment centers set up between 1933, when Dachau was established, and the end of World War II.

In the 1990s he formed an orchestra to perform the pieces, and in 2001 began recording the compositions. A selection was released earlier this year in a 24-CD boxed set called "KZ Musik," or "The Encyclopedia of Concentrationary Music." (KZ is the German abbreviation for concentration camp.)

Some of the pieces have long been known, including music by several prominent composers who were interned in Terezin. The Nazis used Terezin, a ghetto concentration and transit camp, as a propaganda tool, allowing cultural life to develop. Other musical pieces, however, had been long lost or totally forgotten until Lotoro deciphered, transcribed and arranged them.

Many compositions had been jotted down in notebooks or scribbled in letters or on scraps of paper. In the Pankrac prison in Prague, the Czech composer Rudolf Karel scrawled music on sheets of toilet paper. "People continued to create despite being in those places," Lotoro said. "These composers felt that the camp was probably the last place they would be alive, and so they made a will, a testament. "They had nothing material to leave," he said, "only their heart, only their mind, only the music. And so they left the music to future generations. It is a great testament of the heart."

Jews who were killed in the Shoah wrote most of the music that Lotoro has collected. But his collection also includes pieces by Quakers, Jehovah's Witnesses, Roma (Gypsies), political prisoners, homosexuals and others held in camps and prisons as far afield as Asia. He also has music written by German officers and troops in POW camps run by Allied powers and even American GIs held captive by the Japanese.

"Everybody made music, wrote music," Lotoro said. "Because, you know, music is a social phenomenon. You can be a musician as an amateur, because you have a good ear, you can improvise, you can play the harmonica. Of course there are the great composers and musicians. But music is all of this, from amateur to professional."

Lotoro, who lives in the town of Barletta, near Trani, and teaches at a music conservatory, believes he is descended from Jews who were forced to convert to Christianity centuries ago. He was drawn to Judaism as a teenager; he and his wife formally converted in 2004.

But Lotoro said this was not the reason he began his search for the lost concentration camp music. "Of course as a Jew, I now feel that this is a mitzvah; it is something I have to do," he said. "But I think that if I had not become Jewish I would anyway have done this."

His first foray to seek out music came long before his conversion. It was a 1991 trip to Terezin, where imprisoned composers such as Viktor Ullmann and Gideon Klein—both killed at Auschwitz—had written works, such as Ullmann's opera "The Emperor of Atlantis," that already had become part of the international musical repertoire.

"I started there because I thought it would be easier," Lotoro recalled. "But from Terezin I went on to research other former camps in the region, and at the end of three weeks I had to buy another suitcase to bring home all the material I found." Since then he has scoured antiquarian bookshops, catalogs, archives, libraries, museums, private collections and other holdings in more than a dozen countries for traces of lost music. Along the way he has amassed a trove of 13,000 items: scores, notebooks, papers, diaries, microfilms, photocopies, photographs, recordings and other material that he continues to sift through, catalog and sometimes reconstruct. He hopes to load all the pieces he has found onto a digital database for posterity.

As part of his research, Lotoro has consulted with scholars who specialize in the music of the Holocaust, and also has interviewed some of the few surviving musicians as well as relatives of those who perished. But he has carried out most of the work on his own.

"It is yet another testament to Italian creativity—the ability to address such global issues from a relatively 'remote' place, and as a single-handed initiative," Francesco Spagnolo, an Italian musicologist who is the curator at the Magnes Collection of Jewish Art and Life in Berkeley, California, told JTA.

Much of Lotoro's work also has been self-financed. Although he has received some grants over the years, he told JTA that he had gone into debt and even taken out a second mortgage on his home to cover costs. Still, Lotoro said, he must continue. "I cannot stop because if I stop, all the research stops automatically," he said.

"And how many works are still out there that I haven't found? How many works am I missing? How many will I be able to save?" ■

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An evening of Beauty

Nahalal teens visit Ann Arbor

Eileen Freed, special to the WJN

Six tenth graders from Nahalal visited Ann Arbor last month as part of the 2012 Student Exchange. They lived with host families and learned about Ann Arbor and what it means to be a Jewish teen in America. Highlights of the trip included kayaking on the Huron River, Sukkot at Beth Israel Congregation, a tour of The Big House, Simchat Torah at Temple Beth Emeth, and visits to Huron, Community and Skyline High Schools. For more information about the Student Exchange program, contact Eileen Freed, at eileenfreed@jewishannarbor.org or visit www.jewishannarbor.org. ■

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1. Dinner in the sukkah
2. Roni Bloch and Naama Eshal enjoy Zingerman's challah at a tour of the bake house
3. Center f eld, U-M stadium
4. On a visit to Huron High School
5. Esther Goldman and Ayana Levit at the JCC SPICE lunch
6. Claire Fishman and Julie Barnett: Welcome Committee
7. Football party
8. Jonathan Hamermesh, Naama Eshal, Miriam Hamermesh and Sarah Cook play Bananagrams in Hebrew at Keshet
9. Omer Goldwyn, Jonah Schmidt and Tal Ben Barak at Skyline High School Homecoming

Financial assistance available for teens traveling to Israel

Eileen Fried, special to the WJN

The Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor has announced the availability of two sources of financial assistance for teens traveling to Israel: The Susan L. Lichter Memorial Endowed Israel Scholarship and Jewish Federation's subsidies for teen travel to Israel.

Susan L. Lichter Memorial Endowed Israel Scholarship

The Susan L. Lichter Memorial Endowed Israel Scholarship Fund provides two $2,500 scholarships annually for Ann Arbor area high school students to participate in peer group Israel experiences such as semester, summer or gap year programs. Paul and Carolyn Lichter established the fund in memory of their daughter who had a deep connection to Israel. "We wanted to establish this scholarship to keep Susan's name alive in the community and to give other young people the opportunity she had, to have a meaningful Israel experience," said Paul.

The scholarship application includes the submission of an essay in which students will be asked to describe their goals for visiting Israel and how their particular program will help them meet these goals. A scholarship committee, chaired by Laurie Rashes, will determine the scholarship award winners. Applications for the Susan L. Lichter Memorial Endowed Israel Scholarship must be received in the Federation office by February 1, and awards will be determined by March 1. Winning essays will be published in the *Washtenaw Jewish News* and on the Federation website.

Subsidies for teen travel to Israel

The Jewish Federation believes in the value of Israel experiences for teenagers in developing Jewish identity and offers subsidies for teens participating in approved, organized peer trips to Israel. Subsidies are provided for summer, semester and year programs including gap year programs (between high school and college). They are not provided for college-age students. The amount of the subsidy varies, based on the number of applicants. The maximum any one individual will receive is $1,000. Individuals may receive this subsidy only one time. Subsidy recipients will be expected to participate in at least one pre-trip and one post-trip meeting and will be asked to share their experiences during and/or after their trip. Applications for Israel subsidies must be received in the Federation office by March 1, and notification of subsidies will be made by April 1. Applications received after the deadline will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis if funds are still available.

Eligible programs

Eligible programs for both the Susan L. Lichter Memorial Endowed Israel Scholarship and the Israel subsidies must be at least four weeks in length and be organized by an approved provider such as those under the auspices of Jewish youth movements, denominational movements of Judaism, MASA gap year programs, Israeli university teen summer programs, or high school study programs. Scholarships and subsidies are not awarded for family or individual travel and will be paid directly to the programs in which the selected students participate. An Israel Programs Fair is being planned for mid-January. Watch the Jewish Federation website and Facebook pages for more information. ■

Local high school students interested in applying for the scholarship and/or the subsidy should visit www.jewishannarbor.org or contact Eileen Freed at eileenfreed@jewishannarbor.org or 677-0100.

Hebrew Day School and the Common Core State Standards

Jennifer Rosenberg, special to the WJN

In the fall of 2011, Hebrew Day School of Ann Arbor took on the ambitious challenge of piloting the adoption and implementation the Common Core State Standards in all of our K-5 classrooms. The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) are "a coherent progression of learning expectations in English language arts and mathematics designed to prepare K–12 students for college and career success." The CCSS communicate expectations about exit competencies for students at each grade level. While the Common Core State Standards are specific for English language arts and mathematics, they are also applied in all other content areas including history/social studies, science, and the arts.

HDS students work collaboratively to explore Hebrew language concepts

In the immersion environment that exists at HDS we have the unique opportunity to examine how these standards are reflected and applied in not only our general studies curriculum, but also our Hebrew and Judaic studies curricula. Since the children are learning to read, write and think critically in both languages, the English language arts standards in particular offer tremendous opportunity for teachers and students to connect the learning they are engaged with to support a deep, rich and integrated development of skills and content. "I love the challenge of discovering the common threads that bind together our Hebrew and General Studies program through our collaborative investigation of the Common Core Standards and look forward to building on last year's wonderful progress," says Aron Kaufman, first and second grade Hebrew and Judaic studies teacher and HDS mentor teacher.

In reflecting back on our process and progress, we've identified three key commitments that have contributed to our success. The first was a commitment to a thorough and thoughtful examination of the standards through various lenses. We compared them to our curriculum in both general and Judaic/Hebrew studies. We identified which standards were addressed in our lesson plans. We looked at the ways in which other schools are using them and listened to what professional educational organizations are saying about them.

The second factor is the commitment to collaboration. We took this on as a team and shared our questions and our discoveries. We worked in collaborative groups to examine student work and discuss students' progress toward achieving them. We observed each other in teaching situations when specific standards were the focus, and then we debriefed and reflected on what we saw and learned. Therefore, one excellent byproduct of this process has been several new structures and protocols to draw upon to support our professional collaboration and learning.

The third is our commitment to meet the needs of each and every HDS student. The CCSS added another benchmark for progress and achievement and has provided an additional data point to the wide body of information we use to determine a child's educational plan and progress. In addition, while we recognize the importance of standards and benchmarks, we are also deeply committed to the social, emotional and developmental needs of each student. These aspects of a student are not reflected in the standards, and yet, they are always at the forefront of our minds when planning and providing instruction.

As we move into the 2012–2013 school year, we remain dedicated to these commitments and will continue to capitalize on what we learned last year in order to build upon it this year. We were so pleased with the effectiveness of increasing time for professional collaboration that for the 2012–2013 school year we intentionally arranged all teachers' schedules to include a weekly opportunity to meet as a team. Hadar Dohn, new HDS Head of School, is excited to continue this work with the staff. "We work in a field where individuals work in classrooms in isolation. The ultimate beneficiaries of providing teachers with the time to collaborate, learn from one another and support each other's growth are the students," says Dohn. The students have already benefited from this collaborative effort through the direct connections they are seeing from the instruction and strategies offered during one part of the day being supported and expanded during the other.

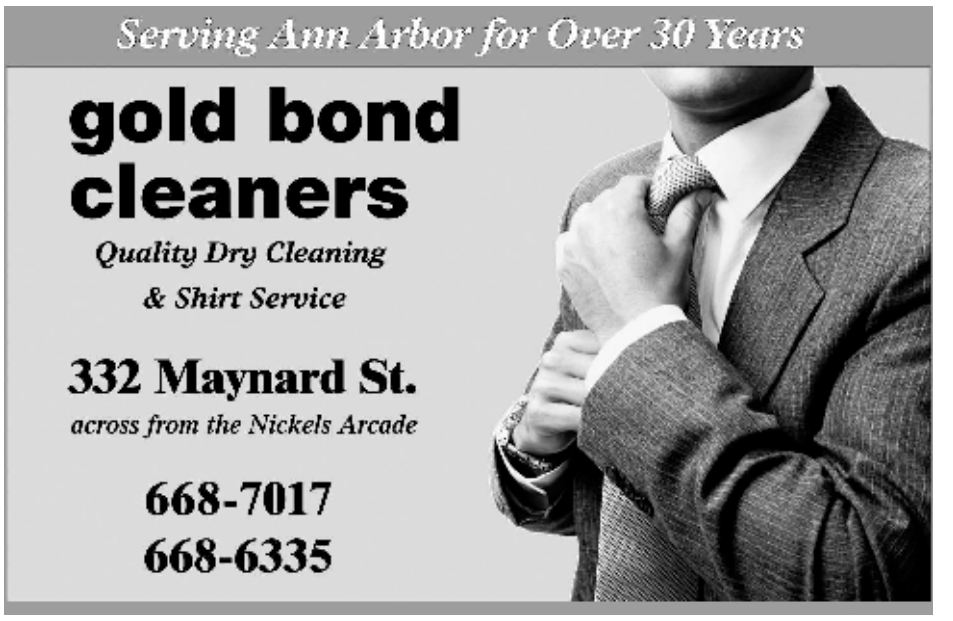
The 2012–2013 school year will also bring deeper look into the Common Core State Standards for mathematics, which include two types of standards: one for mathematical practice (how students are able to apply and extend math principles) and one for mathematical content (what students know about math). There are three key foci in the design of the math standards:

- Focus —Standards seek to direct curriculum to narrow and deepen the way energy is spent in math.
- Coherence—thinking about math instruction across the grade levels so that progressions are coherent and build on one another. It is also about focusing on specific major topics within each grade level and designing instruction in service to those topics.
- Rigor encompasses three aspects—conceptual understanding of key concepts, procedural skill and fluency which calls for speed and accuracy in calculation and application which calls for students to use math flexibly.

A Hebrew Day School student studies concepts in mathematics

These three foci will assist the HDS staff in planning, delivering and evaluating math instruction this year. The HDS staff are energized and excited as we continue to work collaboratively on piloting the Common Core State Standards. The unique opportunities for learning provided by this pilot allow us to expand our knowledge and expertise towards improving instruction and learning for all children.

To learn more about HDS, come on Sunday, November 18, at 3:30 p.m., for "A Taste of HDS—Super Scientists," geared towards preschoolers and their families. Also, everyone in invited to the HDS Open House on Sunday, January 13, from 10:30 a.m.–noon. For more information or to RSVP, contact admissions@hdsaa.org. ■



Eight congressional races to watch

By JTA Staff

NEW YORK (JTA)—JTA has identified eight congressional races of particular Jewish interest and four others featuring potentially viable Jewish contenders.

Top eight congressional races to watch:

U.S. Senate:

Hawaii—Mazie Hirono (D) vs. Linda Lingle (R)

Strongly Democratic Hawaii is tough turf for Republicans, but picking up a Senate seat in President Obama's birth state would be a real coup. And the GOP found a strong candidate in the state's Jewish former governor, Linda Lingle. Still, Lingle has an uphill fight against Rep. Mazie Hirono in the race to replace retiring Sen. Daniel Akaka, a Democrat.

Nevada—Shelley Berkley (D) vs. Dean Heller (R)

With control of the Senate on the line, both parties are betting on Nevada. Rep. Shelley Berkley, who is Jewish, has been trailing incumbent Dean Heller in the polls, but only by a few points, and the race is considered a toss-up. Heller, a former congressman, was appointed to fill the seat last year following the scandal-induced resignation of Sen. John Ensign, a Republican. Berkley, who has strong union ties and is known as an Israel hawk, is a political nemesis (and former employee) of casino mogul and GOP mega-donor Sheldon Adelson. Berkley's Senate campaign faced a setback this summer when the House Ethics Committee launched an investigation into allegations that she had used her office to benefit her husband's business interests.

Ohio—Sherrod Brown (D) vs. Josh Mandel (R)

Ohio is the frontline in the fight for the White House, and it's also a battleground in the struggle for the Senate. Republicans tapped state Treasurer Josh Mandel, a boyish-looking Jewish former Marine and Iraq War vet, to take on Sen. Sherrod Brown, a champion of organized labor and a favorite of the Democratic Party's progressive wing. Brown has been ahead in the polls, usually by single digits.

U.S. House of Representatives:

California, 30th District—Howard Berman (D) vs. Brad Sherman (D)

This is the race that Democrats and supporters of Israel wish weren't happening. The fierce redistricting-fueled fight in Los Angeles' San Fernando Valley pits two veteran pro-Israel incumbents against each other. Rep. Howard Berman, the ranking Democrat on the House Foreign Affairs Committee and a key player on immigration and intellectual property issues, enjoys the strong support of California's Democratic congressional delegation, elected officials and Hollywood machers. But Sherman is an aggressive retail politician and represents much more of the new district than Berman. Sherman beat Berman by 10 points in the nonpartisan primary that sent the two Jewish Democrats to their general election face-off and enjoys a 13-point lead in a newly released poll.

Florida, 22nd District —Lois Frankel (D) vs. Adam Hasner (R)

The race in this South Florida district, stretching along the coast of Broward and Palm Beach counties, pits two Jewish politicians against each other. Lois Frankel, who previously served as mayor of West Palm Beach and in the state legislature, is stressing health care issues and trying to tie her opponent to past Republican Medicare overhaul proposals. The district, which had been represented by Tea Party favorite Rep. Allen West, a Republican, was redrawn to make it substantially more Democratic. Adam Hasner, a former majority leader in the state's House of Representatives, abandoned a foundering campaign for the GOP Senate nomination and entered the congressional race after West decided to run in a neighboring district. Hasner, who ran for Senate as a staunch conservative and is an abortion rights opponent, is stressing the importance of working across the aisle in his congressional campaign. Frankel is regarded as having the edge in the race.

Illinois, 10th District – Robert Dold (R) vs. Brad Schneider (D)

First-term Rep. Robert Dold has been active on Middle East issues, but he had some big shoes to fill. He won the congressional seat vacated by fellow Republican and now-Sen. Mark Kirk, who had been a leader in efforts to support Israel and sanction Iran. Dold now faces a two-pronged challenge with a redrawn suburban Chicago district that is more Democratic and a strong opponent who has a long history of involvement in the Jewish and pro-Israel communities. Brad Schneider, a management consultant, has been involved with the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, Chicago's Jewish federation and the American Jewish Committee. Dold is stressing his support for abortion rights, some gun control measures, stem cell research and civil unions for gay couples. Observers see the race as leaning toward Schneider.

New Jersey, 9th District—Bill Pascrell (D) vs. Shmuley Boteach (R)

Rabbi Shmuley Boteach may be a serious long-shot to unseat incumbent Rep. Bill Pascrell in this heavily Democratic northern New Jersey district, but he's also one of the GOP's more colorful candidates. Boteach, who bills himself as "America's rabbi," kept himself in the spotlight for years by starring in a reality TV show, befriending celebrities such as Michael Jackson and writing books with such titles as "Kosher Sex," "Kosher Adultery" and "Kosher Jesus." Pascrell had handily won a redistricting-induced intra-party primary against stalwart pro-Israel Rep. Steve Rothman. The primary featured some ethnic tensions when an Arab Pascrell supporter questioned the loyalties of local Orthodox synagogue presidents who had urged Jewish Republicans to change party registrations so they could vote for Rothman. In the general election, Boteach has tried to paint Pascrell not only as insufficiently pro-Israel but also as insufficiently supportive of Arab aspirations for freedom.

New York, 1st District—Tim Bishop (D) vs. Randy Altschuler (R)

Randy Altschuler is considered to be the best bet to add a second Jewish Republican to join Majority Leader Eric Cantor in the GOP's House caucus. He is facing a rematch with Rep. Tim Bishop, who beat him narrowly in 2010 in the Long Island district. Bishop has attacked Altschuler for being the co-CEO of a firm that helped companies outsource office work overseas. Altschuler's campaign has emphasized his candidate's more recent work as chairman of an electronics recycling firm as an example of creating green jobs in the United States. Political observers see the race as tilted toward Bishop but consider it competitive. ■

At its centennial, Hadassah looking for Israeli donors and new members

By Ben Sales

TEL AVIV (JTA)—Five years before the Balfour Declaration gave Jews their first realistic hope for a modern state in the Land of Israel, Henrietta Szold founded the women's Zionist organization Hadassah and sent two nurses here to fight disease and provide milk to infants and their mothers.

A century later, Hadassah runs one of Israel's premier hospitals—a medical center with two campuses in Jerusalem and a budget of $500 million. The organization also has created and supported Israeli educational, youth and medical programs, built a membership base of 330,000 Jewish women and male associates in the United States, and developed a budget of more than $100 million.

"Our activities and our mission have stayed very close to what they were when Henrietta Szold stayed here," Hadassah's national president, Marcie Natan, told JTA in an interview while in Israel to celebrate the movement's centennial. "When we see a need, we find a way to try to meet that need."

But as it enters its second century, Hadassah is struggling to attract Israeli donors, government funding for its hospitals and young women to its American membership.

"We have tried to create relationships with those in Israel who are in a position to provide significant philanthropic support, not with any great amount of success," Natan said. "We are going to need help. We cannot bring in the dollars to support all of what is not covered by the health care system here."

According to a senior official at the Hadassah Medical Center, the Hadassah organization, which owns the hospital, covers 4 percent of the hospital's daily operations and 96 percent of its research and development budget—a total cost of nearly $30 million per year.

Hadassah also is raising funds for the Sarah Wetsman Davidson Hospital Tower at its Ein Kerem campus in Jerusalem, an inpatient facility that went operational in March and that Hadassah inaugurated last week at its centennial celebration. The facility costs $363 million, some of which Hadassah has yet to raise.

The struggling U.S. economy has hurt U.S. fundraising and led the hospital to ask the Israeli government for more funding, the official said.

Hadassah Medical Center is unique among Israel's large hospitals in that it is privately owned, which means that it receives minimal funding from Israel's Health Ministry, though the ministry is covering 15 percent of the Davidson Tower's costs.

Hadassah also was hit hard by Bernie Madoff's Ponzi scheme and had to pay a $45 million in a "clawback" settlement to some of the scandal's victims. Natan said "the Madoff scandal is behind us," but that the organization has had to cut back on its spending.

"Our ability to continually expand has weakened a bit because Hadassah gives less money," the official said. He added that the hospital has had trouble expanding its Israeli donor pool "because the big money is in Tel Aviv," whereas the medical center is in Jerusalem.

Getting Israeli philanthropists to support Hadassah is especially hard because Israel lacks America's culture of philanthropy, according to Itay Greenspan, a Hebrew University expert on Jewish donations to Israeli nonprofits. This stems from historical dependence in Israel on socialist governments and on U.S. donations, he said. Israel's tax exemptions for charitable giving also are not nearly as broad as those in the United States.

Israel has "a long history of Diaspora support," Greenspan said. He said that several generations ago, small groups of religious Jews in Jerusalem would receive support from Diaspora sources, and after the state was founded, "the Israeli establishment adopted the same process. People feel that this is the least that the Jewish Diaspora could do."

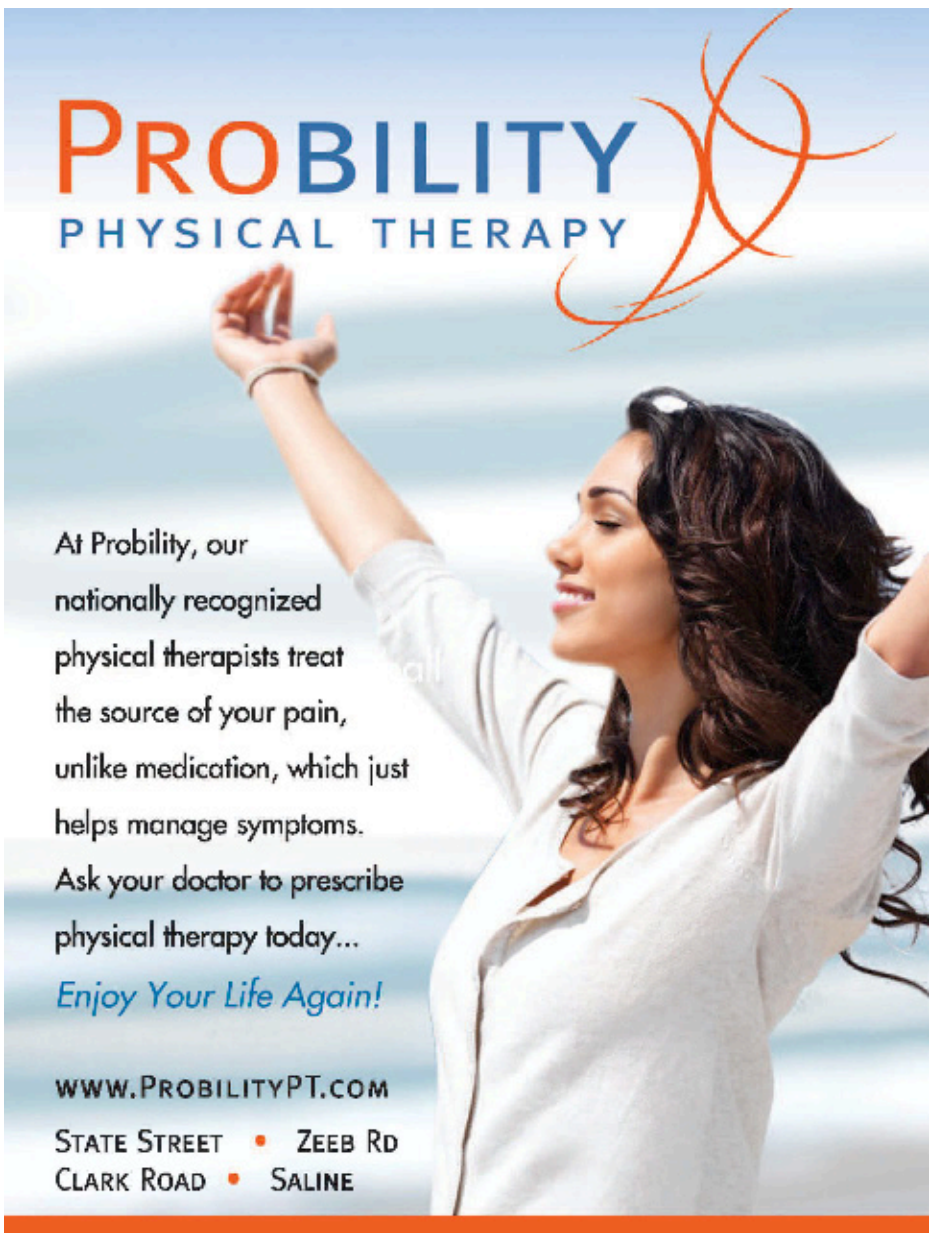
Despite the paucity of local donors, Hadassah's projects in Israel are growing. The centennial celebration, which was held over several days last week in Jerusalem, brought nearly 2,000 members and supporters to Israel. The celebrations included tours of Hadassah philanthropic projects and speeches by Israeli government officials such as President Shimon Peres and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who received an award.

Last week, the organization announced a new $10 million gift from Irene Pollin, founder and chairman of Sister to Sister and wife of the late sports executive Abe Pollin, for a cardiovascular wellness center at Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem. Hadassah and Sister to Sister also will collaborate to raise heart health awareness in Israel and the United States.

Natan says she's worried that younger women will not follow their mothers and grandmothers to Hadassah. The organization's cutbacks on advocacy for U.S. domestic women's issues has hurt membership recruitment, she suggested. To attract a new generation, Hadassah is looking to expand its missions to Israel and invest more in its local chapters across the United States.

Natan said one of her central goals in recruiting young members is to give them an appreciation for Israel that they may lack.

"We have a generation who never knew a life before the State of Israel and do not have that drive, that don't understand that without this country the Jewish world will suffer," she said. "We need them to feel connected with this country." ■



In Eastern Europe, homegrown giving and volunteerism is taking root

By Cnaan Liphshiz

ODESSA, Ukraine (JTA)—Wearing an elegant dress and a name tag, Dasha Fedoseeva flitted among the tables during a recent Jewish community dinner in Moscow just after Rosh Hashanah.

Fedoseeva wasn't just a guest. She was part of a team of young Jewish volunteers whose goal was to mingle and charm older guests into increasing their donations to local Jewish charities.

Organized by the Russian Jewish Congress, the gala dinner and auction raised $85,000. In 2011, the Congress allocated $385,000 to a Jewish orphanage in Moscow—all the money was raised locally in fundraising drives.

The raising of substantial funds locally is a sign of something that was almost unthinkable just a few years ago in former Soviet bloc countries. For years, the Jewish communities there subsisted on Western help for welfare and community building. But as these communities grow up, they are becoming increasingly self-reliant—something that's evident both in the growing culture of local volunteerism and homegrown philanthropy.

"Over the past few years, we see more volunteering by young Jews and more donations, which are aspects of the same trend of giving," said Matvey Chlenov, deputy director of the Russian Jewish Congress.

"In the 1990s there was a feeling we were struggling to survive in the post-communist upheaval," he said. "Now in Russia we have more time and money, and some people are looking for a way to do positive things for the community."

Chlenov says this applies not only to Jews but to Russian society in general.

In Ukraine, a $70 million Jewish community center in Dnepropetrovsk due to be dedicated this month was funded entirely by local philanthropists. Elsewhere in Ukraine, JCCs are encouraging activism and philanthropy among young Jews while accustoming older members to paying fees.

In Poland, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee recently received its first significant donation from a local philanthropist.

Promoters of Jewish life in Eastern Europe say that getting people to donate time and money is difficult in the former Soviet bloc, where bitter memories of "forced volunteering" remain, and there is deep-rooted skepticism in the idea of sacrificing for the common good.

"Former Soviet countries have little culture of giving or volunteering, and I know exactly why," said Karina Sokolowska, director of the Poland office of the JDC. "Growing up in communist Poland, I remember attending 'compulsory-voluntary action' every month. We would go somewhere and do what they told us. It profoundly affects your attitude to community work."

Mariya Zarud, 22, of Odessa, encountered this barrier to community work at home.

Zarud, the regional coordinator for the JDC-funded Metzuda program for developing Jewish leadership, said she had to plead with her parents to convince them that her unpaid role in the Jewish community was a good thing.

"Initially it was pretty tough. I had to make them see I wasn't wasting my time," Zarud said of her teen years, when she first became involved with JDC programs. Like many people who grew up under communism, her parents were wary of organizational activism, she said.

While her parents' generation looks askance at volunteering, young Jews recognize that it is up to them—not just international Jewish aid groups—to build their communities, she says.

In Odessa, the Beit Grand Jewish Community Center, which was dedicated in 2010 thanks to American Jewish donations, collects fees for all cultural activities, according to Ira Zborovskaya of the local JDC office.

> *"In the 1990s there was a feeling we were struggling to survive in the post-communist upheaval. Now in Russia we have more time and money, and some people are looking for a way to do positive things for the community."*

"Even if it's only symbolic, everyone has to chip in and pay something for services," Zborovskaya said. In Soviet times, "charging fees for cultural activities was unthinkable—it was all free," said Kira Verkhovskaya, director of Odessa's other JCC, Migdal. Fees are also collected as a matter of policy there, but most of the budget comes from subsidies from Jews in the West.

"Some older people are not happy when they are asked to pay," she said.

Both Migdal and Beit Grand have programs that encourage young Jews to contribute time and effort to the community.

Beit Grand also operates a luxury Jewish kindergarten for 40 children whose well-off parents pay a monthly fee of $500—approximately double the average national monthly salary. The kindergarten is so popular that it has a long waiting list. The annual income of $240,000 from fees helps cover other programs, including charitable activities.

Nevertheless, the culture of giving is still far less widespread than it is in the West, experts say. Russia has a Jewish population of 265,000, according to a 2010 official census, and the World Jewish Congress says it estimates the number is at least 330,000. Despite the community's size, local philanthropy comes mostly from a thin layer of "oligarchs or super-rich Jews," Chlenov said. "What we are missing is a trusted brand for small donations from middle-class donors, like what the Jewish federation system does in the U.S.," he said.

Attempts to raise donations from that sector yielded some results, according to Chlenov, but never beyond a total of $150,000 per fundraising campaign.

In Ukraine, Eduard Dolinsky, director of the Ukrainian Jewish Committee, says the Jewish middle class still isn't opening its wallet. "Since the mid-'90s, we are seeing the same 10 to 15 very rich Jews funding charity," he said. The donor pool is "sadly not expanding."

This means that with a Jewish population of 360,000 to 400,000 and many thousands of welfare cases, Ukrainian Jewry would "face a humanitarian disaster" if it weren't for American money, Dolinsky added. ■

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Netanyahu expected win in elections unlikely to change Israel's left-right balance

By Ben Sales

TEL AVIV (JTA)—It wasn't Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's call for early elections that was unusual. After all, only a few governments have served a full term in Israel's 64-year history.

What was unusual was that seemingly everyone on Israel's political spectrum—from left to right—appeared to agree that there was no real contest about who would be the next prime minister. Barring any major surprises, Netanyahu is expected to win a third term handily when voting is held early next year; elections had been scheduled for October 2013.

"Netanyahu looks like an authoritative and experienced statesman, with no present alternative," Aluf Benn, Haaretz's editor in chief, noted in an Op-Ed.

It's not that there's no opposition to Netanyahu in Israel.

Shelly Yachimovich, leader of the center-left Labor Party, has called his conservative economic policies a "violent jungle," according to Maariv. Shaul Mofaz, leader of the centrist Kadima Party, criticized Netanyahu's "lack of judgment" on a potential attack on Iran's nuclear program.

Zahava Gal-On, leader of the leftist Meretz Party, asked in a Facebook post on Tuesday whether voters "want four more years of trampling democracy, damaging human rights, freedom of expression, free assembly and protest?" Even Ehud Barak, Israel's defense minister and Netanyahu's coalition partner, has been sparring with the prime minister over U.S.-Israel relations.

But none of these political leaders represents a formidable challenge to Netanyahu. Nor is the current balance of power between right and left, which currently favors the right, expected to change. The seats split between Israel's center-left and left parties may change configuration, but the right-wing bloc in Netanyahu's coalition is expected to keep its dominant position.

Kadima, the 6-year-old party started by Ariel Sharon that won the most seats in the last election, in February 2009, is likely to cede the most ground. Some polls predict that Kadima, which was part of the Netanyahu government this year for more than two months, will win as few as eight seats.

The Labor Party is likely to pick up many of the voters defecting from Kadima. Polls show Yachimovich could lift Labor to as many as 20 seats, up sharply from the eight it now has but significantly down for a party that once was one of the two main parties in Israel.

As a sign of Netanyahu's strength, both Kadima and Labor are seen as potential coalition partners for Likud, and neither Yachimovich nor Mofaz have ruled that out. The only non-Arab party that has vowed not to join Netanyahu in a coalition is Meretz, which controls just four seats.

"It will be entertaining to watch them fight for their place in line," columnist Yossi Verter wrote in Haaretz.

Netanyahu cited his coalition's failure to pass a budget as the reason for calling the early elections now.

As it has for his entire term, the issue of how to stop Iran's alleged nuclear weapons program could dominate the campaign. In addition, the Arab Spring and the regional instability in Egypt and Syria may work to Netanyahu's advantage, according to Hebrew University political science professor Avraham Diskin.

"If people see there's a threat, people always go to the right," Diskin told JTA.

The only real threats to Netanyahu's third term are not in the Knesset right now. They include Ehud Olmert, the former prime minister from Kadima who recently was cleared of the corruption case that prompted his resignation in 2008; Livni, who resigned from the Knesset after losing to Mofaz in Kadima primaries in March; and Yair Lapid, a journalist turned politician who has founded a new centrist secular party called Yesh Atid, which translates as There is a Future.

But Olmert still faces corruption charges in other trials, and he has not yet said whether he will try to make a political comeback. Olmert said he will reach a decision in a few days. At least one Likud Knesset member, Tzipi Hotovely, reportedly is looking into legal options to ban Olmert from running, given the indictments he still faces.

It's also unclear whether Livni will run or which party she'd join if she does. Livni has failed twice to form the coalition government that would have made her prime minister—once when she inherited Kadima's mantle after Olmert's resignation, and then when Kadima edged the Likud by one seat in the 2009 elections.

As for Lapid, while his entrance into politics was greeted by much hype—he's also the son of the late secular politician Yosef "Tommy" Lapid—he has no experience in government and is not considered a viable alternative to Netanyahu when it comes to Israel's foreign policy challenges.

Yachimovich and Lapid could try to swing the campaign back to the economy, playing to the economic liberalism advocated by Israelis in the mass socioeconomic protests of the summer of 2011. But even there Netanyahu is seen as having significant advantages: The economic crisis that slammed the United States and Europe largely has bypassed Israel.

Netanyahu "has the ability to say there's a world crisis and it's only hit Israel lightly," Gideon Rahat, another Hebrew University political science professor, told JTA. "The social protests did not succeed in topping the agenda."

In his speech announcing the early elections, Netanyahu touted the stability of his current coalition, which excluding this year's brief unity government has fluctuated between 64 and 68 members since 2009 without any real coalition crises.

Netanyahu owes that stability to a solid bloc of right-wing parties including the nationalist Yisrael Beiteinu headed by Avigdor Liberman; the religious nationalist HaBayit HaYehudi; the Sephardic Orthodox Shas Party; and United Torah Judaism.

These parties, polls show, will not grow or shrink substantially, with one possible wild card: Aryeh Deri, the former Shas leader who left politics in 2000 after being convicted of corruption. Deri may run again, even if it means starting a rival party to Shas. Should he win a small bloc of seats, he could become a kingmaker to either a right-wing or left-wing coalition. ■

Drop in venture capital funding puts squeeze on Israel's tech sector

By Ben Sales

TEL AVIV (JTA)—The Facebook page of PlayArt Labs, an Israeli gaming startup, looks more like the homepage of an art museum than the profile of an emerging technology company.

It features an article about Johannes Vermeer's "Girl with a Pearl Earring," an animation of Vincent van Gogh's "Starry Night" and a link to a Twitter feed, @FrescoJesus, about a century-old Spanish fresco. The goal of the startup is to integrate art and cultural education into iPad games—to create "some added value from playing," according to Adir Wanono, who launched PlayArt Labs 10 months ago.

But now Wanono, 34, who successfully funded another startup two years ago, has encountered an unfamiliar obstacle.

After eight months of working with barely any money, he has had trouble securing necessary funding from investors who like his idea but are hesitant to invest. He has secured $55,000 in investments from family and friends, but with four people working at the company, even that shoestring budget will run out in six months, Wanono estimates.

Wanono says the market in Israel has become tougher since his last startup.

"People say, 'Go to the market, gain traction and we'll invest,' but this lowers the chances of most startups to succeed," he said. "We need money now to maximize our chances to succeed. Without money now, we won't be able to maximize the benefit from a good launch."

PlayArt Labs is far from alone in encountering this problem. Recently, Israel's famously booming startup scene has seen funding from large venture capital firms decline. That means there's less money available than there used to be for startups—a key engine of the Israeli economy—to get off the ground.

This drop in funding has come as Israel's technology sector, which includes startups and larger established companies, has experienced dramatic layoffs.

According to an August article in Haaretz, 16,000 of Israel's 80,000 tech workers have lost their jobs. Government funding of the tech sector also has dropped 40 percent over the past decade, to $400 million in 2011.

While the number of new startups has not declined from previous years, industry investors and entrepreneurs say that venture capital firms have been less willing to take risks on those companies as they seek to expand.

"The entire venture capital model is broken," said Yesha Sivan, president of the Israel Internet Association. "It used to be that a fund would get $100 million, it would invest in 10 companies and it would get two or three big winners that would make 10 times more on their money. Today the return on VCs is relatively lower, so people are looking for other avenues."

Into that void have stepped individual "angel" investors, as well as several dozen companies called startup accelerators or incubators that provide funding, space, equipment and professional guidance to startups.

One such accelerator is Tel Aviv-based Rad BioMed, which focuses on biomedical startups. At the end of its central hallway, above a smooth beige table surrounded by beakers, microscopes and computers, Dan Frumkin holds a test tube in his latex gloves. Frumkin, 40, hopes to improve diagnoses of bladder cancer by analyzing DNA. He is the vice president for biochemistry of Nucleix, a startup focusing on DNA analysis that he co-founded four years ago.

Nucleix rents space from Rad BioMed, though it does not receive funding from the lab.

"It's cheaper and easier" to work at Rad BioMed's offices, Frumkin said. "Instead of creating a laboratory, we entered an existing one. It helps that we have a little in common with other companies."

Incubators and accelerators have less money to invest than venture capital firms—typically in the hundreds of thousands rather than the millions. But Yoav Chelouche, managing partner of Israel's Aviv Venture Capital, says "the cost of building a new company is dramatically lower than it's been" in the past.

"You don't need to buy software and an operating system," he said. "You can use a lot of open source code," programs that are available for free on the Internet.

According to Chelouche's research, venture capital firms in Israel provided about $3 billion of funding to startups in Israel from 2008 to 2012, versus $3.6 billion from 2004 to 2008 and $6.5 billion from 1999 to 2004. He also found, however, that Israel is on track to see about 600 new companies created in 2012, a similar number to 1999 and 2000. Chelouche says this could be a positive development for Israel's tech sector, as it will create "a situation where companies have to do more with less, which is not necessarily a bad thing—being more frugal."

But another investor, Roni Einav, the founder of New Dimension Software, which he sold for a record $675 million in 1999, says that companies may hit a roadblock as they seek to expand overseas.

"If the company is successful in developing and having the first three, four or five customers in Israel, they can try to go abroad, but then they need more money," he said.

The drop in funding actually could help people like Wanono, however, as they will own a greater percentage of their own companies and thus make larger profits should they sell their companies or go public on the stock market, Einav said.

"The question is how much time the founders are ready to sacrifice with minimal salaries, or whether they successfully convince the employees to work with reasonable salaries for a year or two," he said. "If you're an entrepreneur and you're not ready to sacrifice a part of your salary, it's like you have a dream but you want someone else to finance it."

Einav also noted that the percentage of venture capital funding of Israeli companies from the United States is growing, which he says is "good because the biggest challenge is to cross the ocean, so an American investor will give credibility to the company."

While some areas of the startup industry are hot targets for investment, like biomedical companies, Sivan says it's harder now than in previous years to get major investments as a startup. Still, he has confidence that no matter how the industry changes, startups will always be an attractive career option for enterprising Israelis.

"This will always be something people do," he said. "People like to create things, to take a chance." ■

Environmentalist Raymond DeYoung talks about our changing world

Rachel Urist, staff writer

Raymond DeYoung is an environmental psychologist who teaches at the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources. He and his colleague of 30 years, Thomas Princen, have just published *The Localization Reader* (MIT Press), a collection of essays written by environmentalists and other experts in the field of changing social behavior in the age of transition. DeYoung and Princen include several of their own essays in the book, whose purpose is to help people recognize and align themselves with the current realities of energy descent. This collapse of resources, which the authors call a "downshift," necessitates change in a life-style based on the erroneous assumption that the availability of oil and coal was interminable. The descent has already begun, says DeYoung, and the impact of energy depletion will be felt dramatically within ten years. The book aims to help people plan for the end of fossil fuels and other non-renewable energy sources.

There is a difference, say the authors, between "localization" and the more narrow and provincial "localism." Nor is localization the reverse of globalization. DeYoung explains that localization is a process of social and behavioral change, wherein "our attention is focused on everyday behavior within a place-based community." In discussing current consumer behavior, we note about the absence of seasons in supermarkets, where we buy kiwi, strawberries, grapes and pineapple all year round. But this override of nature's dictates requires endless supplies of gasoline for the vehicles that transport these delicacies; infrastructures that clear roads in winter, so that trucks can get through; an atmosphere that can resist indefinitely the emissions of carbon and other pollutants. The ultimate goals of localization, says DeYoung, "are to increase the long-term psychological well-being of people and societies while sustaining and even improving the integrity and coherence of natural systems, especially those that directly provision our communities."

He practices what he preaches. He and his wife, Noreen, got rid of their second car in 1979. They bike and walk whenever possible. They grow many of their own vegetables in their backyard garden and supplement that produce with provisions from local farmers markets. They joined a CSA and invested in the Tilian Farmer Development Program, which bought land north of Ann Arbor and incubates young farmers there. Three young farm couples just came aboard. DeYoung and Princen have committed all royalties from their book to two community organizations that exemplify localization: Growing Hope and People's Food Co-op. Growing Hope (www.growinghope.net) is an organization dedicated to helping people improve their lives and communities through gardening, healthy food access, and local food security. The Food Co-op (www.peoplesfood.coop), on Fourth Avenue near the Farmer's Market, has a growing membership and loyal following. It also has a popular café, where the authors of *The Localization Reader* often meet to exchange ideas.

DeYoung is an engaging fellow with a ready smile. He is also a force of nature. Princen recalls their first encounter, 30 years ago. It was Princen's first week in Ann Arbor, a nervous time for him. His job at U-M was his first tenured position. As he began organizing his new office, DeYoung popped in and invited Princen out for coffee. Princen amost refused. There was so much work to do! Today, their coffee hours are weekly rituals, time when they exchange ideas, discuss the seminar they co-teach, delineate plans for various projects. *The Localization Reader* is among the products of their friendship.

Raymond DeYoung

A sampling of the book's essay titles are telling. They include: "Fossil Fuel Decline" (M. King Hubbert); "The Inevitability of Transition" (Joseph A. Tainter); "A Whole New Way of Life" (Karen Litfin); "Local Enterprise" and "15 Conserving Communities" (Wendell Berry); "Motives for Living Lightly" (Raymond DeYoung); "Adaptive Muddling" (R. DeYoung and Stephen Kaplan); "Tools for the Transition" (Donella Meadows, Jørgen Randers, and Dennis Meadows); "Downshift/Upshift: Our Choice" (R. DeYoung and T. Princen).

Self-sufficiency allows people to save money, cut energy use, minimize or eliminate harmful chemical use. In short, through reskilling, people learn to rethink, repurpose, reuse, and recycle.

"Downshift," or "downshift moment," explains DeYoung, is a driving metaphor. When driving, people downshift to adjust to changing road conditions. Likewise, as environmental conditions change, we need to shift into lower gear, to "drop down to lower level of societal complexity," as DeYoung puts it. Many environmentalists use the more dire word, "collapse," to describe the drying up of energy sources, or "peak oil" –the point in time when the maximum rate of petroleum extraction is reached, after which the rate of production is expected to enter terminal decline. It is common knowledge that fossil fuels will, eventually, be depleted. According to experts, that point is nigh.

But DeYoung and Princen are optimistic in their approach to the dismal realities of climate change and dwindling supplies of coal, peat, petroleum and natural gas. "Downshifting is both a process and a moment – a mental shift." We need to retrain ourselves, teach our children to see things differently, to know that the supermarket is not the source of food, just as the furnace is not the source of heat. DeYoung points out that Ann Arbor's Jewish Community Center is among many organizations contributing to localizations. His wife, Noreen DeYoung, Director of the JCC's Early Childhood Center (ECC), initiated the establishment of the pre-schoolers' garden, where they grew and harvested peas, string beans, radishes, cherry tomatoes, basil, potatoes, gourds, corn, watermelon, and pumpkins. Ann Arbor is also home to Zingerman's, whose Food Gatherers has spawned similar initiatives in communities across the country, and whose encouragement of its employees' entrepreneurial dreams has won widespread praise.

Behavior entrepreneurship is key to dealing with the problems we face. DeYoung is impressed by experiments and initiatives that have attracted followings in recent years. They include:

Eco-villages and co-housing communities, which are contemporary variants of the short-lived communes of the 1960s.

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA), which created an inventive collaboration between farmers and consumers. Tens of thousands of citizens have joined CSAs in the last 20 years. Consumers buy a certain number of "shares" from farmers and then receive an allotment of local, seasonal produce each week throughout the farming season. This arrangement benefits both farmers and consumers.

Reskilling programs, which help people to become more self-sufficient and resilient by learned how to do things for themselves. "Reskilling" was coined by Rob Hopkins, who wrote one of the essays included in *The Localization Reader*. Hopkins also wrote *The Transition Handbook*, which defines reskilling as: "re-learning the skills that our grandparents took for granted, such as how to use hand tools, how to build our own structures, how to mend and make clothing, how to make our own medicine, how to forage, grow, preserve and store our food." Self-sufficiency allows people to save money, cut energy use, minimize or eliminate harmful chemical use. In short, through reskilling, people learn to rethink, repurpose, reuse, and recycle. Reskilling programs must not be confused with retraining programs (or vocational rehabilitation), which help people learn new skills or trades, often in response to the changing economic environment.

Transition towns, or the transition town movement, is the grassroots network of communities working to build resilience in response to peak oil, climate destruction, and economic instability. This trend is an example of socioeconomic localization. As of May 2010, there are over 400 communities recognized as official Transition Towns. They are in the United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, the United States, Italy and Chile. Like reskilling, the transition town movement is based on the work of Rob Hopkins. Both movements help people live with less energy use. These communities fuse ancient and modern skills and use the latest in low or zero-impact engineering and technology.

DeYoung mentions resilience circles, too, which have emerged in communities across the country. These circles, often neighborhood-based, promote the sharing of skills, professional advice, emotional support, and an age-old feature of friendship: helping hands. He is also intrigued by the Jewish notion of *tikkun olam,* repairing the world. Though he sees this concept primarily as a call for responsible stewardship of the earth, a concept that his wife teaches her preschoolers, the concept may be understood to have broader ramifications. Humankind was given the gift of life supported by a world that sustains us. It is now our responsibility to sustain the world remain viable. We must protect it from ourselves.

"We're going through the Kubler-Ross stages of coping right now," DeYoung says. In coming to terms with loss and death, people go through phases that Kubler-Ross delineates as: denial, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance. DeYoung insists that it is time to face the new reality and to see change not as loss, but as opportunity. He coined "the well-fed neighbor" notion, which holds that it is our own best interests to see that our neighbors are well fed. "If my neighbor is not fed well, some part of me isn't fed well," he says

There is a CSA in Missouri that now calls itself the "Well-Fed Neighbor CSA." Such an affirmative response to current conditions is much better, says DeYoung, "than having us scared or go to war." Besides, provisioning our neighbors is not just hyperlocalism. "It's part of *tikkun olam*.

Reviews of *The Localization Reader* have been uniformly favorable. Only one maintains that the book is academic, a claim that DeYoung and Princen are quick to refute. They believe that this book speaks to all citizens—scholars and lay folk alike. When I ask DeYoung whether there is a Jewish angle to the subject he pursues, he surprises me by raising the issue of leadership. He is acutely aware of his Jewish connection to the work he does. While he never quotes the prophet Isaiah's injunction to be "a light unto the nations," DeYoung talks about the Jewish inclination toward moral leadership. He also notes that Jews are accustomed to transition. We have been thrown out of countries throughout our history. We have been forced to adapt to new societies, to adjust to changing restrictions. This is an age, "that may be an opportunity for us to lead."

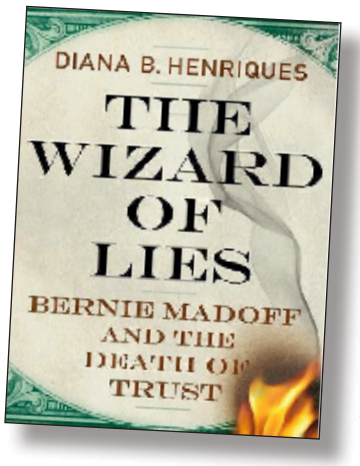
Raymond DeYoung began his professional career as an engineer, working for an industrial society. After becoming "more involved in the people side", he went back to school for his Ph.D. He feels lucky to have changed tacks. He's "having fun" these days, doing behavior change research, finding out how the mind interacts with the world. He never tires of asking: "how can we make the world better?" ■

The Wizard of Lies: Meticulous story of Madoff scandal

Rachel Urist, staff writer

Diana Henriques wrote this book after covering the Bernie Madoff story for the *New York Times.* She was part of a team of financial journalists for that story, and their efforts earned the team a Pulitzer Prize nomination. In *The Wizard of Lies*, Henriques looks at the sweep of the story, from Madoff's early years through his rise and fall. She is financially savvy. Her book is laced with financial jargon: options, derivatives, front-running, selling short, the split-strike conversion strategy, synthetic trades, clawback suits, arbitrage trades, preference payments, and fraudulent conveyences. She defines everything and makes the story accessible to everyone. Her meticulous investigative journalism is enhanced by psychological acuity and philosophical depth. Henriques explores the human factors that led to the fiasco, particularly people trust blindly in someone whose outsized ambition matches their unrealistic hopes. This combination, she feels, is at the heart of this tragedy. She is convinced that there will always be a Ponzi scheme unfolding somewhere.

By now, everyone who follows the news knows what a Ponzi scheme is. It's an investment scam in which someone steals money from Peter to pay Paul. Madoff's scheme racked up numbers that are staggering, though the precise amount remains unclear. On paper (statement accounts), the amount stolen was calculated to be between $54 to $64.8 billion. Out-of-pocket cash disappeared to the tune of $20 billion. Madoff was legendary for inspiring trust and named his company "Madoff Securities International, Ltd." But in the end, those securities disappeared. Madoff survived repeated interviews and investigations, but the blizzard of lies, subpoenas, legal proceedings, and investigations by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and the Securities Investor Protection Corporation (SIPC) were finally too much for the 70 year old Madoff. He was weary of his scam. When the fraud was exposed, these agencies were mortified. The world was aghast, Madoff's victims were ruined, and his family shattered.



The story of Madoff's fraud is so deeply depressing that I confess to having set the book aside for a while. It suddenly weighed three tons. I turned to lighter fiction before picking up this book again. Only after a break could I see this book as the financial thriller it is said to be. But it is also a modern Greek tragedy.

Madoff seduced thousands with his old-world charm. He's been described as haimish – down-to-earth, modest, congenial. Henrique reminds us that "con-man" comes from "confidence man," and Madoff inspired confidence. He then conned friends and family alike: hard-working, middle class strivers and rich celebrities. His victims included Jewish icons: Elie Wiesel, Yeshiva University, the Weizman Institute, the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, Hebrew Univeristy, Hadassah. Madoff seemed to have fooled himself long before he began to dupe clients and deflect regulators. Caught in his growing web of lies, he found himself unable to crawl out.

The fallout was – and is – unfathomable. The venerable Elie Wiesel, who spent his career bearing witness to Nazi atrocities, was asked if he could forgive Bernie Madoff. "No," he answered. There were at least three suicides. The elder of Madoff's two sons, Mark, a University of Michigan alumnus, hanged himself. A French financier slit his wrists. A decorated British war hero shot himself.

Henrique brings the courtroom proceedings to life. Before the sentence was read on June 29, 2009 in a federal courthouse in New York City, hundreds of letters and emails had been sent by Madoff's victims, reporting on their ruined lives. Many of the victims were present in court. Nine were asked to address the court. They included a retired New York City corrections officer whose house and pension were now gone; a 61 year old widow now working three jobs to make ends meet; a mother whose daughter's college tuition fund disappeared in the middle of the daughter's junior year; the two now lived "in a nightmare we can't wake from." There was a model, a "fragile blond" who said that Madoff destroyed her trust in people, destroyed her life." One man with a mentally disabled twin brother reported that their trust fund vanished, and with it their means of support.

In describing this "wrenching ritual" in the courtroom, Henrique highlights the testimony of Burt Ross, "a charismatic elderly man supporting himself on two walking sticks," who lost $5 million. Ross said:

What can we possibly say about Madoff? That he was a philanthropist? The money he gave to charities he stole. A good family man? He leaves his grandchildren a name that mortifies them. A righteous Jew? Nobody has done more to reinforce the ugly stereotype that all we care about is money.

How did Madoff accrue such loss? Henrique believes that it was Madoff's vaulting ambition combined with his investors' outsized hopes led them all over a cliff. There

continued on next page

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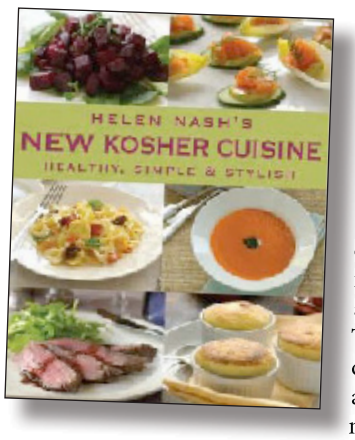
New kosher cookbook by Helen Nash

Mary Bilyeu, staff writer

New Kosher Cuisine: Healthy, Simple & Stylish, Helen Nash's newest cookbook, offers elegant, but uncomplicated, recipes that are fresh and beautifully enticing. As its dust jacket states, the book "contains many new and imaginative fusion recipes that are as modern as they are nutritious .... This book shatters forever the myth that Jewish food is all gefilte fish and chopped liver!"

There is, of course, a recipe for Chopped Chicken Liver, classic that it is; but without schmaltz it's lighter and healthier, especially if served with cucumber slices as the author recommends. Other traditional dishes are made more nutritious, as well, while still retaining their Jewish character: vegetables and dill reduce the fat and increase the flavor of the mushroom-infused Barley Soup with Miso; sun-dried tomatoes and two varieties of mustard add zest, but not calories or cholesterol, to Pot Roast; and a Honey Cake that is "moist, light, and not too sweet" offers the benefit of mashed banana to compensate for less oil.



Asian and Indian influences—incorporating ginger, sake, curry, and other vibrant flavors—are also featured in many recipes, providing an exotic touch. A variety of Italian rice and pasta dishes is included, from Spaghetti with Meat Sauce to a more intriguing Orecchiette with Mushrooms and Radicchio. And fruits and vegetables are utilized in unique ways, such as the Green Pea and Zucchini Soup or the Mango-Kiwi Relish that accompanies a salmon dish.

Nash is a respected cook, lecturer, and teacher who was born into a rabbinical family in Poland but has lived for many years in New York City. She has offered demonstrations at locations as varied as New York University and the De Gustibus cooking school at Macy's, as well as studying and collaborating with world-renowned chefs. She is a noted cooking authority, and one who offers imaginative cuisine honoring the dietary laws. But her recipes are so tempting that even those who don't keep kosher would find them inviting and delicious.

After her late husband suffered a massive stroke, "one of the ways in which (Nash) tried both to give him pleasure and keep him relatively healthy was to cook for him." So she began to work with "novel kosher ingredients that were just coming to the market. Wasabi powder, miso, panko (Japanese breadcrumbs), balsamic and rice vinegars, and a variety of oils—truffle and sesame—hadn't been available to kosher cooks" when she'd been working on her first two cookbooks during the 1990s. These new flavors were easily incorporated into Nash's efforts to maximize nutrition, utilize readily available items from supermarkets, and—most importantly—"to select ingredients of the highest quality and, whenever possible, seasonal products."

New Kosher Cuisine is divided into standard categories (Appetizers, Luncheon Dishes, Desserts, etc.), and each subdivides its recipes by whether they are meat, dairy, or pareve. There are also sections devoted to information about ingredients, equipment, and technique that make the cookbook a valuable resource for kitchen novices while the creativity of the recipes can inspire cooking mavens.

The offerings—from soups and salads to entrees and desserts—are perfect for everyday meals, as they are not difficult to prepare at all. But many of them would also be ideal for the upcoming Thanksgiving feast or for a beautiful Shabbat dinner, offering new twists on expected dishes and lightening some of the traditionally rich festive foods.

For Nash, there are several integral aspects to a recipe: it must have fabulous flavor, be nutritious, be easily prepared, and not be terribly complicated. And each of these characteristics is represented in the dishes of *New Kosher Cuisine*. But the most important attribute of a dish is respect for the dietary laws, which are deeply meaningful to her:

"Keeping kosher is more, to me, than just a sensible way to live and to eat healthfully. The ancient Jewish dietary laws help to organize my life around family, Friday nights, and holidays. They remind me of the importance of community and anchor me to the other rituals of our religion. Their observance inspires me to study our texts more deeply—a search for meaning that, in turn, heightens my respect for human nature. The Torah says it all in its reverence for life." ■

Beets with ginger

I always wear thing plastic gloves when I work with beets, as this avoids staining my fingers with beet juice, which can be hard to remove. If you're in a hurry, you can chop the beets in a food processor, but this will give them a different texture.

5 medium beets
1" piece ginger, peeled and grated
2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
2 tablespoons rice vinegar
kosher salt
freshly ground black pepper
snipped chives, for garnish
mache or other greens, for serving

Preheat the oven to 400°. Line a baking pan with foil.

Wash the beets and, while still wet, wrap each one individually in foil. (Be sure to wrap them tightly; otherwise some of the juice may ooze out.) Place in the pan and bake for 35-40 minutes, until tender when pierced with the tip of a paring knife. Remove each beet from the oven as it becomes ready.

When cool, slip the skin off the beets. Cut them into 1/4" slices, then into 1/4" cubes. Add the ginger, oil, vinegar, salt, and pepper, and combine well. Season to taste.

Serve on individual plates, garnished with chives, and accompanied by mache.

Makes 4 servings.

Shredded sweet potatoes with cumin and scallions

Sweet potatoes have been growing in this country since long before Columbus, so I can honestly say they are more American than apple pie.

2 medium sweet potatoes (about 2 pounds)
2 tablespoons vegetable oil
1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
2 scallions, including the green part, finely chopped
1 teaspoon freshly squeezed lemon juice
kosher salt
freshly ground black pepper

Peel the potatoes and quarter them so they will fit through the feed tube of a food processor. Shred them coarsely using the medium attachment.

Heat the oil in a wok or skillet over medium-high heat. Lower the heat to medium, add the cumin and scallions, and sauté for a few seconds.

Add the potatoes and sauté until almost tender, about 3 minutes. Season to taste with the lemon juice, salt, and pepper.

Serves 4–6.

Mini fruit truffles

I always use California apricots when I make this recipe because they are less sweet than other varieties. These truffles can be refrigerated or frozen. Put them side by side in an air-tight plastic container, with wax paper between the layers. You can roll the truffles in confectioners sugar instead of granulated sugar.

1/4 pound dried California apricots
1/4 pound walnuts
1/4 pound pitted dates
1/4 pound dried currants
2 tablespoons apple juice
1 tablespoon superfine sugar, for dusting

Place the apricots in a food processor and pulse until coarsely chopped. Add the walnuts and pulse to chop. Add the dates and pulse, then add the currants. Add the apple juice and pulse until the mixture sticks to the blade.

Place a teaspoon of the mixture in the palm of your hand and roll it into a smooth ball. Continue until all the mixture has been used.

Before serving, dust the truffles lightly with sugar.

Makes 4 dozen truffles.

Madoff, continued from previous page

had been warnings. Michael Ocrant, an astute financial reporter for Barrons, tried to alert the community. He challenged everyone by calling Madoff a fraud and presenting meticulous documentation for the allegations. No one listened. Another suspicious sleuth, a quantitative analyst named Harry Markopolis, also insisted that Madoff was too good to be true, and he had numbers to prove it. He, too, was ignored. When the SEC sent an investigative team, Madoff snowed them – as he had done time and again, from 1992 until his downfall in December 2008. Before his time ran out, he had, in Henrique's words:

"… fooled regulators, hedge fund administrators, and auditors for years, conjuring up counterfeit records and bogus computer data that seemed to satisfy them. But you cannot conjure up a counterfeit bank balance and write checks on it. The money is there or it isn't—and it wasn't."

Henriques poses questions that eluded the shocked public when the scandal first broke, when everyone assumed that Madoff's wife and sons were also culpable, part of a family conspiracy. She writes:

If they were accomplices, they deserved to be more than vilified in the media; they deserved to be indicted, convicted, sued, ruined, and imprisoned for life. But in the oceans of ink and galaxies of cyberspace devoted to Ruth Madoff and her sons, few, if any, commentators asked the obvious question: What if they were innocent?

This book is a comprehensive record of events leading to Madoff's downfall. It is also a testament to the courage and competence of an extraordinary journalist. Challenge is all in a day's work for Diana Henrique. She has been honored for articles exposing the financial exploitation of young soldiers by insurance and investment companies and for her coverage of federal compensation and charitable relief for the families of victims of the 9/11 attacks. She chronicled the fate of Cantor Fitzgerald, the Wall Street trading house that lost three-quarters of its work force in the collapse of the World Trade Center. Her work was included in the "A Nation Challenged" section for which *The New York Times* won a Pulitzer Prize in 2002. She won the George Polk Award for Military Reporting, the Worth Bingham Prize and the Goldsmith Prize for Investigative Reporting. In Henriques' accounts, unsavory stories become riveting cautionary tales. ■

Musician Ben Cohen's many talents

Sandor Slomovits, staff writer

Ben Cohen is a multi-talented musician and actor who works in many different areas of the musical life of Ann Arbor and Detroit area. He is the conductor and musical director of Vocal Arts Ensemble, the fine local chamber group; he is a composer with a number of theater shows to his credit; he teaches music full time at Greenhills School; and also occasionally directs theater productions at Community High School; and has served as choir director for the professional choir at Temple Beth El in Bloomfield Hills, for the High Holidays services. We talked about his life in music.

WJN: I was introduced to you and your work by Cantor Rose at Temple Beth Emeth. She spoke very highly of you.

Cohen: She's really a remarkable person, and very influential to me. There's not a day when I'm teaching that she doesn't come to my mind because of her manner with people and her ability get right away to what's important—in a higher way. I kind of release my ego much more easily when I can channel her. (Laughter) I tell her that too.

WJN: Let's start with your childhood. Did you grow up in a musical family?

Cohen: My father is an American Studies professor at Brandeis, but he's also a tenor and is very influential in my wanting to sing and being around opera. I developed a passion for both jazz and classical music as a kid. I was a jazz saxophonist and classical singer, and influenced by my father, but also by my brothers who were all musicians too.

WJN: You also went to Brandeis.

Cohen: I studied music at Brandeis. It's a very small, academically centered department. I was performance oriented, but I did study with great people.

WJN: Singing?

Cohen: Singing and conducting some too, and saxophone. I graduated in '85 and then taught in schools in Boston, acted in shows in theater and conducted; a lot of what I do now. I started to sing in high-level choirs. I was never a solo baritone, making a lot of connections, a lot of money. It was mainly through forming my own groups.

WJN: So what brought you here?

Cohen: My mentor at Brandeis, the choral director there, went through the program at the University of Michigan and highly encouraged me to go here for graduate school. I came in 1991 so I could study with Gustav Meier, Jerry Blackstone, and Theo Morrison. I cemented my friendship with Theo and Annie [Rose] that way, (Theo Morrison is Cantor Annie Rose's husband, and teaches at the U of M) and I stayed. I met my wife here.

I had sung with the Zamir Chorale of Boston and that experience helped me found the Zamir Chorale of Metropolitan Detroit in 1993. I was the founding conductor. I did that for 13 years, until 2006. Most of my conducting and high-level music making now is with the Vocal Arts Ensemble in Ann Arbor, which is a terrific chamber group in town.

WJN: You've worked with Kate Mendeloff. (lecturer at the U-M's Residential College and director of the popular Shakespeare in the Arb productions.)

Ben Cohen

Cohen: She was the first person connected with the University that I worked with when I came to Ann Arbor. She contacted me about writing music for a production of Lysistrata and then we continued on and did many projects at the Residential College, and for Young People's Theatre.

WJN: Cantor Rose had high praise for your composing.

Cohen: I've written quite a lot. I wrote a "Casey at the Bat," which is done often, and I wrote a story based on "The Wild Swans" by Hans Christian Andersen, and the "Mask of the Red Death," based on a Poe short story. I wrote a rather major piece here at Greenhills in 2007, "Hercules Leaves His Mark," and that was the biggest full-length show that I've written.

WJN: Tell us about teaching at Greenhills.

Cohen: I've been here since 1998, and I teach 6th through 12th grade. I get to teach basic skills and singing, I also teach playwriting, and an acting Shakespeare class. I run an Elizabethan Festival here as part of that Shakespeare class, a kind of secular Madrigal dinner that we do in the spring. I also direct the Shakespeare production every year. It's a very rich life, I love it here. I don't have the hardship of having ten classes a day like my public school colleagues have to do sometimes. I am very fortunate to be here, it's a really great school. My colleagues are great, the kids are really eager to learn. They're not trying to get away with not doing anything. I really, really love the environment. The only thing I wish is that it was available to more people. That's the bugaboo. I struggle with that end of things. But I have terrifically collaborative colleagues and I love being in situations where I'm working with others. Theater does that naturally. Conducting is fine, but I'm always in charge when I'm conducting, it's always my rehearsal, my way. Even if I create an organic give and take atmosphere, which I love to do, it's still…different. And it should be different.

At the same time, I love to be inspired and get mentored. I don't like collaborative ventures that are sort of democratically sterile. Someone must rise above and I love seeing when that happens. I just love working with good stuff. It's the combination of people but it's also that high level we're all reaching for.

I think teaching is aiming high naturally. I'm always trying to find that thing that is slightly beyond what the group can do, as long as it's mixed with things that they can enjoy singing without worrying about it. But there is a strong element of helping my students be challenged and reaching for something great and get that kind of "aha" moment. I think I do it with every group, from the 6th graders on up to the professionals. It's always about expecting more. You can't go high enough. There's an accepted standard of artistic excellence in everything that we do, the idea that we're all aiming for that high level inspires me more than anything. Whatever that is, a spiritual calling, or a professional calling, that artistic level, which in itself is a…

WJN: I don't want to put words in your mouth, but I think of it almost as a religion. The art is its own religion, which is not to say that it's in conflict with any other religion…

Cohen: Correct, it's not in conflict with any other one, but the fact that we're collectively agreeing to this higher standard is the same thing. That's what drives me, that's what fortifies me more and more; wanting to aim higher and higher, trying to balance that with not expecting too much of people.

WJN: Including yourself?

Cohen: Including myself. The more I recognize how high I want to go, the more I have to be in tune with not enforcing that on others, just trying to inspire people.

WJN: Tell us about your work with the Vocal Arts Ensemble.

Cohen: Vocal Arts is a really, really fine group, that tends to fly under the radar. We're now about 24 singers strong. We do a variety of a cappella music as well as collaborations with other ensembles such as Motor City Brass Quintet, People Dancing, River Raisin Ragtime Review (Revue) and we've sung with the Ann Arbor Symphony quite a bit. We commission new works all the time. We sing in theatrical settings, concert settings, church settings, and Temple settings. It's just been kind of my baby in the last ten years. It's been a very central part of my life.

WJN: Let's talk about your family. You mentioned that your daughter, Tema, is about to become bat mitzvah. Is she musical too?

Cohen: She's a terrific singer.

WJN: Surprise, surprise. (Laughter)

Cohen: She's played many instruments all through her childhood. She's a dancer, an actor, and very talented. My wife, Julie, is a tile maker. She wasn't born Jewish but has been very active in helping to promote a Jewish life in our house, and has been a real driving force with our involvement in the Temple. It's just the three of us, and because it's just the three of us, it's very important to create as much community as we can. I really believe in that. The Temple has been terrific with that.

WJN: My daughter, Emily, is a fabulous musician and I feel so lucky that I get to play music with her, on stage and off. At the same time, I never did —nor do I now— feel that I want or need her to follow in my footsteps.

Cohen: I feel exactly the same way. I don't want to make her into what she's not inclined to do. I feel she has a lot of talent. I want her to find her voice first, find her inner…that voice. And I'm eager to see her come into her own. I love the fact that she's here (an eighth grader at Greenhills) and that she still calls me dad in the hall. I feel very delighted that she's in music. It gives us a way of connecting and having something to talk about and having something in our back pockets together. I'm very grateful that she's in music for that very reason. What would it be like if she wasn't a musician, or didn't have an artistic temperament, or sensibility? We sing together around the piano, we perform together from time to time. We've sung duets together. It's been fantastic.

WJN: One of the realities of being a musician in this culture is that to make a life in music most musicians need to wear a lot of hats, but the flip side of that is that we get to wear a lot of hats.

Cohen: It's true. I really thrive on that. And I think I found the right job where I get to do that here, and meet other people who also do it. I wouldn't know any other way. I feel very fortunate that I have theater, I have lots of different elements that I get to do. I've worked with Performance Network, with the JET Theatre, and others. The theater and the choral music really fuels me. Ann Arbor has been an incredible playpen for me. In a bigger city I might have gotten swallowed up with a lot of people who do that sort of thing, but here I feel like I can flourish and make great relationships and friendships and collaborations. I feel very fortunate, having decided to make Ann Arbor my cultural home, as well as my literal home. ■

Ben Cohen's Vocal Arts Ensemble has two concerts coming up in November and December. On November 3 they'll be at the First United Methodist Church and will be singing the Howells Requiem, a Bach motet and music by Schütz, Byrd, Pearsall and even Stevie Wonder. Their December concert, at Genesis/Temple Beth Emeth, will feature Christmas and Chanukah music.

For more information, visit www.vocalartsannarbor.org/schedule.php.

Calendar

November 2012

Thursday 1

SPICE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, $4 per session, 10 a.m. Current Events with Heather Dombey, 11 a.m. Dairy Lunch Buffet, $3. Noon. Special events and presentations at 1 p.m.

Spirituality Book Club: TBE. Lunchtime book club session focusing on second book of the year, *Here I Am: Using Jewish Spiritual Wisdom to Become More Present, Centered, and Available for Life,* by Dr. Leonard Felder. For information, contact Cantor Annie Rose at cantorannie@gmail.com. Noon–1 p.m.

Lunch and Monthly Birthday Celebration: JCC Seniors. Birthday celebration for all with November birthdays at 12:30 p.m. Bring family and friends for lunch and birthday cake.

Presentation: JCC Seniors. Marylen Oberman, clinical psychologist, will present on "Journaling for your Legacy." 1 p.m.

Historical Roots of Modern Judaism Class: JCC. Led by Professor Todd Endelman, this class covers the four varieties of Judaism that dominate Jewish life today: Reform, Conservative, Modern Orthodox and Ultra-Orthodox. Course will examine the historical roots of these four streams. For information about cost or to RSVP, contact Karen Freedland at karenfreedland@jccfed.org or phone 971-0990. 7–8:30 p.m. *Also November 5.*

Tradition and Change: BIC. "How the Conservative Movement's Rabbis Interpret Jewish Law." 8 p.m.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 2

Rabbi Levy's Lunch and Learn: TBE. Informal Discussion. Bring lunch. Noon–1 p.m.

Yiddish Open House: JCC. 1:30–3 p.m.

Shabbat Services for Young Families: TBE. Tot Shabbat for ages 5 and under at 5:30 p.m. Tot and Sukkat Shalom dinner at 6:00 p.m. Shira and Sukkat Shalom for ages 5 through 10 at 6:30 p.m. Popsicle Oneg follows. Ben Steinberg Shabbat Services with Kol Halev at 7:30 p.m.

Friday evening services: *See listing at end of calendar.*

Saturday 3

Torah Study with Rabbi: TBE. 8:50 a.m.

Shabbat Limmud: TBE. 9 a.m.

Chapel Service: TBE. 10 a.m.

Learner's Service: AARH. Second of nine monthly sessions held at the JCC and led by rabbinic intern Aura Ahuvia who will guide participants through the historical, geographical and political traditions of the Saturday morning service. For information, visit www.aarecon.org or call 445-1910. 10 a.m.–noon.

Night Out: TBE TNT. Twenties and Thirties group visits the Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase, 314 East Liberty. 8–10 p.m.

Shabbat services: *See listing at end of calendar.*

Sunday 4

High School Service Day: BIC. Service Day in Detroit. 9 a.m.

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and discover the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. *Every Sunday.*

The Amazing Race: BIC. Noon.

Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class: TBE. For information, contact Cantor Rose at cantorannie@gmail.com. 7:45–8:45 p.m.

Monday 5

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon on Mondays–Fridays and 1–3 p.m. on Mondays–Thursdays at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email andre@jfsannarbor.org. *Ongoing.*

Osher Lifelong Learning: JCC. "Investing in Retirement" class is offered this month. Other classes, at different times and dates, are also offered. Registration through OLLI at www.olli.umich.org or by phone at 971-0990. For information, contact Karen Freedland at karenfreedland@jccfed.org. 10–11:30 a.m. *Mondays through December 3.*

Trop Class: TBE. With Cantor Rose. For information, contact cantorannie@gmail.com Noon–1 p.m.

Jewish Book Festival Author Conversation: JCC. A conversation with Zoe Fishman, author of *Saving Ruth*. Moderated by Alice Fishman. 7 p.m.

Women's Torah Study: TBE. With Cantor Rose. For information, contact cantorannie@gmail.com. 7 p.m.

Basic Judaism: TBE. For information or to register, contact Rabbi Lisa Delson at ldelson@templebethemeth.org. 7–8:30 p.m.

Historical Roots of Modern Judaism Class: JCC. Led by Professor Todd Endelman. 7–8:30 p.m. *See November 1.*

Presentation: Jewish Women's Circle. Geraldine Markel, an educational psychologist specializing in learning and performance, founder of "Managing Your Mind" and author of several books applying behavioral research to productivity, will present ways to take actions against the distractions that everyone experiences. The goal will be to help participants become more productive and efficient. $10/donation. Location to be announced. To reserve, email esther@jewmich.com. 7:15 p.m.

Tuesday 6

The Kabbalah of You: Chabad. Discover new depths of meaning with an impact on all aspects of existence, including joy, contentment, courage, self-control, a meaningful relationship to God, relationships with others. 9:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

SPICE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, $4 per session.11 a.m.; Dairy Lunch Buffet, $3, Noon. Mah-Jongg and sewing. 1 p.m.

Yiddish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group): All ages and levels welcome including UM and non-UM participants. 1:30 p.m. at Beanster's Café, ground floor of UM Michigan League. For information, call 936-2367.

Hebrew 104: TBE. 6:15–7:15 p.m.

Spirituality Book Club: TBE. Evening book club session focusing on second book of the year, *Here I Am: Using Jewish Spiritual Wisdom to Become More Present, Centered, and Available for Life,* by Dr. Leonard Felder. For information, contact Cantor Annie Rose at cantorannie@gmail.com. 7:30–8:30 p.m.

The "Other" in Jewish Tradition: Challenges and Opportunities: BIC. 8 p.m.

Hebrew 101: TBE. 7:15–8:15 p.m.

Tea and Torah on Tuesday—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, with the classical Rashi commentary. 8 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

Wednesday 7

Tai Chi at the JCC: JCC. Washtenaw Community College class held at the JCC. Instructor Karla Grosbeck of Good EnerChi Studio will teach traditional low impact Tai Chi moves that promote the flow of good energy through the body, Improve balance, health and memory. Fees and registration information found on WCC website. For more information, contact Karen Freedland at karenfreedland@jccfed.org or phone 971-0990. *Wednesdays through November 21.*

Lunch with the Author: JCC. $10 in advance for lunch or $15 at the door. Lunch with Eileen Pollack, author of *Breaking and Entering.* Author presentation follows lunch. Noon.

Author Presentation: JCC. Presentation by Eileen Pollack, author of *Breaking and Entering.* 12:30 p.m.

Weekly Musical Meditations: TBE. Led by Cantor Annie Rose and John Goodell, St. Clare's Music director. 6:15–7:15 p.m.

Hebrew 103: TBE. 6:30 p.m.–7:30 p.m.

Author Presentation: JCC. Presentation by Aaron Dworkin, author of *Uncommon Rhythm: A Black, White, Jewish, Jehovah's Witness, Irish Catholic Adoptee's Journey to Leadership.* 7 p.m.

Thursday 8

SPICE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, $4 per session, 10 a.m. Current Events with Heather Dombey, 11 a.m. Dairy Lunch Buffet, $3. Noon. Special events and presentations at 1 p.m.

Presentation: JCC Seniors. A registered nurse from Care Response will provide free blood pressure checks at 12:30 p.m.

Lunch with the Author: JCC. $10 in advance for lunch or $15 at the door. Lunch with Lydia Rosner, author of *The Russian Writer's Daughter.* Author presentation follows lunch. Noon.

Author Presentation: JCC Seniors. Jewish Book Festival author Lydia Rosner will speak about her book entitled *The Russian Writer's Daughter.* 12:30 p.m.

Jewish Book Festival Frankel Scholar Night: JCC. Deborah Dash Moore, author of *Jews of Gotham*; Zvi Gitelman, author of *Jewish Identities in Postcommunist Russia and Ukraine: An Uncertain Ethnicity*; Harvey Goldberg, author of *Contemporary Jewish Collective Identities*; Joshua Miller, author of *Accented America: The Cultural Politics of Multilingual Modernism*; Ranen Omer-Sherman, author of *Narratives of Dissent: War in Contemporary Israeli Arts & Culture* ; Lisa Silverman, author of *Becoming Austrians: Jews and Culture between the World Wars*. 7 p.m.

Tradition and Change: BIC. "How the Conservative Movement's Rabbis Interpret Jewish Law." 8 p.m.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 9

Rabbi Levy's Lunch and Learn: TBE. Informal Discussion. Bring lunch. Noon–1 p.m.

Lunch with the Author: JCC. $10 in advance for lunch or $15 at the door. Lunch with Caroline Stoessinger, author of *Life of Alice Herz-Sommer, the World's Oldest Holocaust Survivor.* Author presentation follows lunch. Noon.

Author Presentation: JCC Seniors. Jewish Book Festival author Caroline Stoessinger will speak about her book entitled *Life of Alice Herz-Sommer, the World's Oldest Holocaust Survivor.* 12:30 p.m.

Yiddish Open House: JCC. 1:30–3 p.m.

Shabbat Services for Young Families: TBE. Tot Shabbat for ages 5 and under at 5:30 p.m. Tot and Sukkat Shalom dinner at 6:00 p.m. Shalom Dinner at 6:30 p.m. First Grade Family Consecration Shabbat Service with Youth Choir at 7:30 p.m.

Friday evening services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Saturday 10

Torah Study with Rabbi: TBE. 8:50–9:30 a.m.

Morning Services: BIC. Kehillat Shabbat for 3rd–5th Grade at 11 a.m. Mini Minyan for K–2nd Grade at 11:15 a.m. Tot Shabbat at 11:15 a.m.

Chapel Service: TBE. 10 a.m.

Shabbat Services: AARH. Interactive community service features music, singing, modern English readings alongside the traditional prayers and thought provoking Torah discussion led by rabbinic intern Aura Ahuvia. To get involved, contact aura613@gmail.com or visit www.aarecon.org. At the JCC from 10 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Author Presentation: JCC. Jewish Book Festival presentation by Larry Tye, author of *Superman: The High-Flying History of America's Most Enduring Hero.* 8:30 p.m.

Shabbat services: *See listing at end of calendar.*

Sunday 11

Jewish Book Festival Local Authors Brunch: JCC. With Barbara Cain, author of *Autism, the Invisible Cord: A Sibling's Diary*; Andrei S. Markovits, author of *Sportista: Female Fandom in the United States*; Geri Markel, author of *Actions Against Distractions: Managing Your Scattered, Disorganize and Forgetful Mind*; Irene Miller, author of *Into No Man's Land: A Historical Memoir*; Ken Waschberger, *Voices from the Underground Series*; Marina von Neumann Whitman, author of *The Martian's Daughter: A Memoir*; Mitchell Rycus, author of *The Soil is Dead*; Ivan Sherick, author of *Introduction to Child, Adolescent, and Adult Development: A Psychoanalytic Perspective for Students and Professionals*. 9 a.m.

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and discover the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. *Every Sunday.*

Executive Committee Meeting: BIC. 9:30 a.m.

Planning Meeting: BIC Men's Club. 9:30 a.m.

"Thinking Outside the Tzedakah Box:" BIC. Part of the 7th Grade Bar/Bat Mitzvah Series. 10:30 a.m.

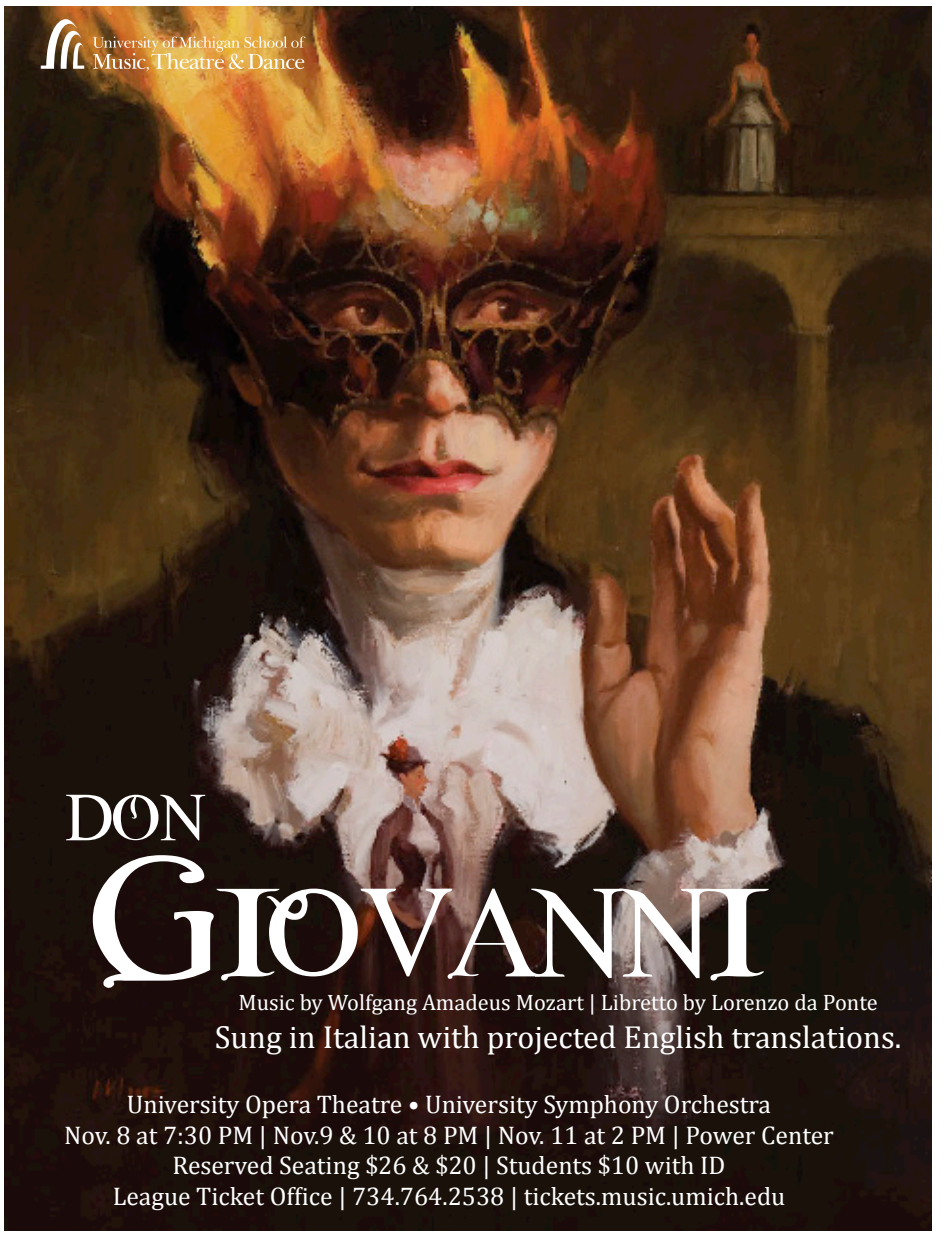
Jewish Book Festival Author Presentation: JCC. Presentation by Moshe Arens, author of *Flags Over Warsaw Ghetto.* Noon.

Superhero Event for Children: JCC. With Jewish Book Festival guest Larry Tye, author of *Superman: The High-Flying History of America's Most enduring Hero.* Children are invited to dress up as a favorite superhero, have a picture taken with Superman and enjoy ice cream sundaes. $5 per person. 3 p.m.

Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class: TBE. For information, contact Cantor Rose at cantorannie@gmail.com. 7:45–8:45 p.m.

Monday 12

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon on Mondays–Fridays and 1–3 p.m. on Mondays–Thursdays at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email andre@jfsannarbor.org. *Ongoing.*



Holocaust Memorial Center Zekelman Family Campus

28th Anniversary Dinner

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL CENTER • ZACHOR • REMEMBER •

When: November 11, 2012
Where: Congregation Shaarey Zedek
Who: Guest Speaker Father Patrick Desbois
Contact: 248.553.2400 ext. 29 or www.holocaustcenter.org

Father Patrick Desbois has received international acclaim for locating the mass gravesites of Eastern Europe, so that countless Jews killed during the Holocaust will no longer be forgotten. Hear his moving testimony and support our mission of education and tolerance.

Henrietta and Alvin Weisberg, *Honorees*

Father Patrick Desbois, *Guest Speaker*

Together We Will Preserve Memories and Build a Better World.

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NOVEMBER 5, 5 PM
PUBLIC RECEPTION AND KETUBOT EXHIBIT OPENING WITH DEBORAH UGORETZ
202 SOUTH THAYER STREET, ROOM 2000

NOVEMBER 8, 12 NOON
ANDREA SIEGEL, FRANKEL FELLOW
"WHAT CAN POETRY AND LITERATURE TEACH NEW MOTHERS?
HEALTH PROMOTION AND THE EARLY ARAB-ZIONIST CONFLICT"
202 SOUTH THAYER STREET, ROOM 2022

NOVEMBER 15, 12 NOON
ISAAC OLIVER, FRANKEL FELLOW
"LUKE AND THE 'JEWS' IN ACTS:
'ANTI'-SEMITIC OR 'TOO' SEMITIC?"
202 SOUTH THAYER STREET, ROOM 2022

NOVEMBER 29, 12 NOON
HARVEY GOLDBERG, FRANKEL FELLOW
"RITUAL MUTUALITY AMONG MUSLIMS AND JEWS IN NORTH AFRICA"
202 SOUTH THAYER STREET, ROOM 2022

DECEMBER 6, 12 NOON
LISA SILVERMAN, FRANKEL FELLOW
"THE ART OF LOSS: MADAME D'ORA, PHOTOGRAPHY, AND
THE RETURN OF JEWISH PROPERTY AFTER THE HOLOCAUST"
202 SOUTH THAYER STREET, ROOM 2022

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Rudolf Steiner High School

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1:00 pm dessert reception
1:30 pm concert

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Trop Class: TBE. With Cantor Rose. For information, contact cantorannie@gmail.com Noon–1 p.m.

Lunch with the Author: JCC. $10 in advance for lunch or $15 at the door. Lunch with Dan Millstein, author of *The ABC of Sales.* Author presentation follows lunch. Noon.

Author Presentation: JCC Seniors. Jewish Book Festival author Dan Millstein will speak about his book entitled *The ABC of Sales.* 12:30 p.m.

Author Presentation: JCC. Presentation by Jewish Book Festival guest Avraham Burg, author of *Very Near to You.* 7 p.m.

Basic Judaism: TBE. For information or to register, contact Rabbi Lisa Delson at ldelson@templebethemeth.org. 7–8:30 p.m.

Tuesday 13

The Kabbalah of You: Chabad. Discover new depths of meaning with an impact on all aspects of existence, including joy, contentment, courage, self-control, a meaningful relationship to God, relationships with others. 9:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Yiddish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group): All ages and levels welcome including UM and non-UM participants. 1:30 p.m. at Beanster's Café, ground floor of UM Michigan League. For information, call 936-2367.

SPICE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, $4 per session. 11 a.m.; Dairy Lunch Buffet, $3, Noon. Mah-Jongg and sewing. 1 p.m.

Lunch with the Author: JCC. $10 in advance for lunch or $15 at the door. Lunch with Andrea Strongwater, author of *Where We Once Gathered: Lost Synagogues of Europe.* Author presentation follows lunch. Noon.

Author Presentation: JCC Seniors. Jewish Book Festival author Andrea Strongwater will speak about her book *Where We Once Gathered: Lost Synagogues of Europe.* 12:30 p.m.

Hebrew 104: TBE. 6:15–7:15 p.m.

Author Presentation: JCC. Featuring Jewish Book Festival guest Julie Nagel, author of *Melodies of the Mind.* 7 p.m.

Hebrew 101: TBE. 7:15–8:15 p.m.

The "Other" in Jewish Tradition: Challenges and Opportunities: BIC. 8 p.m.

Tea and Torah on Tuesday—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, with the classical Rashi commentary. 8 p.m. *Every Tuesday.*

Wednesday 14

Lunch with the Author: JCC. $10 in advance for lunch or $15 at the door. Lunch with Matti Friedman, author of The *Aleppo Codex: A True Story of Obsession, Faith and the Pursuit of an Ancient Bible.* Author presentation follows lunch. Noon.

Author Presentation: JCC Seniors. Jewish Book Festival author Matti Friedman will speak about her book *The Aleppo Codex: A True Story of Obsession, Faith and the Pursuit of an Ancient Bible.* 12:30 p.m.

Author Presentation: JCC. Featuring Jewish Book Festival guest Ari Weinzweig author of *A Lapsed Anarhist's Approach to Being a Better Leader.* 7 p.m.

Weekly Musical Meditations: TBE. Led by Cantor Annie Rose and John Goodell, St. Clare's Music director. 6:15–7:15 p.m.

Hebrew 103: TBE. 6:30–7:30 p.m.

Men's Torah Study: TBE. Meets twice a month for evening of learning. Refreshments served. For information, contact Roger Stutesman at rgstutesman@sbcglobal.net. 7:30 p.m.

Thursday 15

SPICE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, $4 per session, 10 a.m. Current Events with Heather Dombey, 11 a.m. Dairy Lunch Buffet, $3. Noon. Special events and presentations at 1 p.m.

Lunch with the Author: JCC. Lunch with Jewish Book Festival guest Ann Marie O'Connor, author of *The Lady in Gold, The Extraordinary Tale of the Gustav Klimt Masterpiece, Portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer.* Noon.

Author Presentation: JCC Seniors. Jewish Book Festival presenter Ann Marie O'Connor will speak about her book *The Lady in Gold, The Extraordinary Tale of the Gustav Klimt Masterpiece, Portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer.* 12:30 p.m.

Tradition and Change: BIC. "How the Conservative Movement's Rabbis Interpret Jewish Law." 8 p.m.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Author Presentation: JCC. Featuring Jewish Book Festival guest Devan Sipher, author of *The Wedding Beat.* 7 p.m.

Friday 16

Cooking Demonstration and Lunch with the Authors: JCC. Join Jewish Book Festival guests Aviva Kleinbaum and Aric Mutchnick, authors of *Fusion by Nadia: A Quilting of Flavors from Iraq, Israel and America.* Noon.

Yiddish Open House: JCC. 1:30–3 p.m.

RAC Shabbaton Weekend: TBE. Free catered Shabbat dinner with RSVP. 6 p.m.

Shabbat Services for Young Families: TBE. Tot Shabbat for ages 5 and under at 5:30 p.m. Tot and Sukkat Shalom dinner at 6:00 p.m. Shira and Sukkat Shalom for ages 5 through 10 at 6:30 p.m. Popsicle Oneg follows. Keynote Speaker Mark Pelavin, Senior Advisor to the President of the URJ and Associate Director of RAC Shabbat Service Honoring Double Chai and Brotherhood Shabbat Service with Kol Halev at 7:30 p.m.

Friday Night Lights: BIC. Service at 6 p.m. Dinner at 7 p.m.

Friday evening services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Saturday 17

Torah Study with Rabbi: TBE. 8:50–9:30 a.m.

Shabbat Brunch and Learn: BIC. 9:30 a.m.

RAC Shabbaton: TBE. Morning Service from 10–11 a.m.; Kiddush Lunch at 11:30 a.m.; Learning Session from Noon–1 p.m.; Roundtable Conversations with local social justice advocates from 1–2:30 p.m. Teen Program with free dinner from 6–8 p.m.

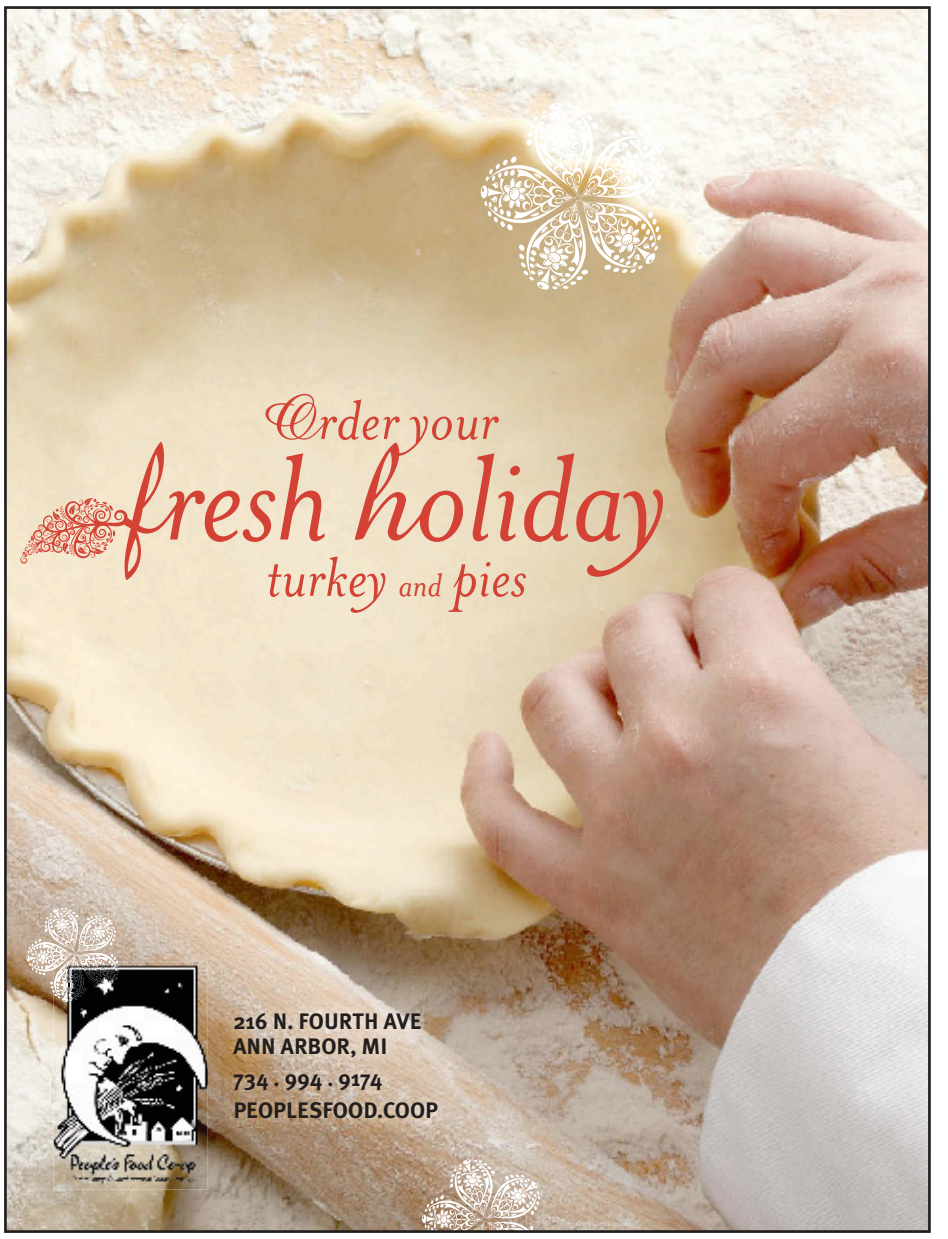
Shabbat services: *See listing at end of calendar.*

Sunday 18

Gan Katan: BIC. Preschool program. 10 a.m.

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and discover the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. *Every Sunday.*

Lunch with the Author: JCC. Enjoy Bagels and Lox with Jewish Book Festival guest David Javerbaum, author of *The Last Testament* for $10 in advance or $15 at the door.



Calendar

Author Presentation: JCC. Jewish Book Festival guest presentation by David Javerbaum, author of *The Last Testament.* 12:30 p.m.

Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class: TBE. For information, contact Cantor Rose at cantorannie@gmail.com. 7:45–8:45 p.m.

Interfaith Roundtable Thanksgiving Celebration: BIC. 7 p.m. Followed by dessert reception at 8 p.m.

Monday 19

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon on Mondays–Fridays and 1–3 p.m. on Mondays–Thursdays at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email andre@jfsannarbor.org. *Ongoing.*

Women's Torah Study: TBE. With Cantor Rose. For information, contact cantorannie@gmail.com. 7 p.m.

Basic Judaism: TBE. For information or to register, contact Rabbi Lisa Delson at ldelson@templebethemeth.org. 7–8:30 p.m.

Alpha House Rotating Shelter: TBE. 7 p.m.–7 a.m.

Film Discussion Group: JCC. With Russ Collins, Executive Director of the Michigan Theater. Once a month lively discussion and viewings of popular blockbusters, independent films, thought-provoking dramas, intense thrillers, and more. For information, contact karenfreedland@jccfed.org or phone 971-0990. 7–8:30 p.m.

Tuesday 20

The Kabbalah of You: Chabad. Discover new depths of meaning with an impact on all aspects of existence, including joy, contentment, courage, self-control, a meaningful relationship to God, relationships with others. 9:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Yiddish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group): All ages and levels welcome including UM and non-UM participants. 1:30 p.m. at Beanster's Café, ground floor of UM Michigan League. For information, call 936-2367.

SPICE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, $4 per session. 11 a.m.; Dairy Lunch Buffet, $3, Noon. Mah-Jongg, Bridge and sewing, 1 p.m.

Hebrew 104: TBE. 6:15 – 7:15 p.m.

Alpha House Rotating Shelter: TBE. 7 p.m.–7 a.m.

Hebrew 101: TBE. 7:15 – 8:15 p.m.

The "Other" in Jewish Tradition: Challenges and Opportunities: BIC. 8 p.m.

Tea and Torah on Tuesday—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, with the classical Rashi commentary. 8 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

Wednesday 21

Hebrew 103: TBE. 6:30 p.m.–7:30 p.m.

Alpha House Rotating Shelter: TBE. 7 p.m.–7 a.m.

Erev Thanksgiving Service: TBE. With Kol Halev and St. Clare's Choir. 7:30–9 p.m.

Thursday 22

Alpha House Rotating Shelter: TBE. 7 p.m.–7 a.m.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 23

Rabbi Levy's Lunch and Learn: TBE. Informal Discussion. Bring lunch. Noon–1 p.m.

Shabbat Services for Young Families: TBE. Tot Shabbat for ages 5 and under at 5:30 p.m. Tot and Sukkat Shalom dinner at 6:00 p.m. Shira and Sukkat Shalom for ages 5 through 10 at 6:30 p.m. Popsicle Oneg follows. Shabbat Service at 7:30 p.m.

Fourth Friday Shabbat Service: AARH. Musical Kabbalat Shabbat services held at the JCC and open to all. Led by rabbinic intern Aura Ahuvia. Services followed by vegetarian potluck dinner. Pizza nosh for children before services at 6 p.m. Childcare provided during services. Reservations preferred. Contact Jennifer Cohen at www.aarecon.org/contact-us or phone 445-1910. 6–10 p.m.

Alpha House Rotating Shelter: TBE. 7 p.m.–7 a.m.

Friday evening services: *See listing at end of calendar.*

Saturday 24

Torah Study with Rabbi: TBE. 8:50–9:30 a.m.

Chapel Service: TBE. 10 a.m.

Tot Shabbat: BIC. 11:15 a.m.

Alpha House Rotating Shelter: TBE. 7 p.m.–7 a.m.

Shabbat services: *See listing at end of calendar.*

Sunday 25

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and discover the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. *Every Sunday.*

Monday 26

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon on Mondays–Fridays and 1–3 p.m. on Mondays–Thursdays at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email andre@jfsannarbor.org. *Ongoing.*

Trop Class: TBE. With Cantor Rose. For information, contact cantorannie@gmail.com Noon–1 p.m.

Basic Judaism: TBE. For information or to register, contact Rabbi Lisa Delson at ldelson@templebethemeth.org. 7–8:30 p.m.

Jewish Mama's Group: JCC. Course on how to raise self-reliant, compassionate and ethical children. Participants will explore issues and gain insights from other moms while reading and discussing *The Blessing of the Skinned Knee* by Wendy Mogul. Led by JCC Director of the Department of Early Childhood, Youth and Family Programming, Noreen DeYoung. For information or to register, contact noreendeyoung@jccfed.org or phone 971-0990. 7:30–8:30 p.m. *Also December 17, January 21 and February 18.*

Tuesday 27

The Kabbalah of You: Chabad. Discover new depths of meaning with an impact on all aspects of existence, including joy, contentment, courage, self-control, a meaningful relationship to God, relationships with others. 9:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Jewish Mama's Group: JCC. 10–11 a.m. *See November 26 for details. Also December 18, January 22 and February 19.*

Yiddish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group): All ages and levels welcome including UM and non-UM participants. 1:30 p.m. at Beanster's Café, ground floor of UM Michigan League. For information, call 936-2367.

SPICE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, $4 per session, 11 a.m.; Dairy Lunch Buffet, $3, Noon. Mah-Jongg and sewing, 1 p.m.

Hebrew 104: TBE. 6:15–7:15 p.m.

Hebrew 101: TBE. 7:15–8:15 p.m.

The "Other" in Jewish Tradition: Challenges and Opportunities: BIC. 8 p.m.

Tea and Torah on Tuesday—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, with the classical Rashi commentary. 8 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

Wednesday 28

Weekly Musical Meditations: TBE. Cantor Annie Rose will collaborate with John Goodell, St. Clare's music director, in musical meditations in the sanctuary. Take time for meditation, personal prayer, or thought accompanied by music. 6:15–7:15 p.m.

Hebrew 103: TBE. 6:30 p.m.–7:30 p.m.

Board Meeting: BIC. 8 P.M.

Thursday 29

SPICE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, $4 per session, 10 a.m. Current Events with Heather Dombey, 11 a.m. Dairy Lunch Buffet, $3. Noon. Special events and presentations at 1 p.m.

Presentation: JCC Seniors. Ellen Schulmeister and Diana Neering from the Shelter Association of Washtenaw County will speak about the background, sponsors and people who benefit from their organization. 1 p.m.

Tradition and Change: BIC. "How the Conservative Movement's Rabbis Interpret Jewish Law." 8 p.m.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 30

Rabbi Levy's Lunch and Learn: TBE. Informal Discussion. Bring lunch. Noon–1 p.m.

Yiddish Open House: JCC. 1:30–3 p.m.

Shabbat Services for Young Families: TBE. Tot Shabbat for ages 5 and under at 5:30 p.m. Tot and Sukkat Shalom dinner at 6:00 p.m. Shira and Sukkat Shalom for ages 5 through 10 at 6:30 p.m. Popsicle Oneg follows. Birthday and Anniversary Shabbat Service at 7:30 p.m.

Friday evening services: *See listing at end of calendar.*

Weekly Friday night Shabbat services

Shabbat Service: AAOM. Services held at UM Hillel. Call 994-9258 in advance to confirm time.

Shabbat Service: BIC. 6 p.m.

Shabbat Service: TBE. Tot Shabbat at 5:30 p.m., followed by tot dinner. Sukkat Shalom service at 6:30 p.m. for "tot grads," preceded by dinner. Shira at 6:30 p.m. Oneg for Tot and Sukkat Shalom families at 7 p.m. Traditional Service at 7:30 p.m. Once a month Middle School Service at 7:30 p.m. For information, call 665-4744.

Shabbat Service: Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah. 6:15 p.m. at the JCC the fourth Friday each month. Musical Shabbat service followed by vegetarian potluck. Pizza nosh for the kids at 6:00 p.m. Childcare provided during the service. All are welcome to attend. For information, call 975-6527, email mamacohen@comcast.net, or visit www.aarecon.org.

Shabbat Service: Chabad. Begins at candle-lighting time. Home hospitality available for Shabbat meals and Jewish holidays. Call 995-3276 in advance.

Weekly Shabbat services

Shabbat Services: AAOM. Morning service, 9:30 a.m. Evening service, 35 minutes before sunset. Call 662-5805 for information. Mincha/Ma'ariv with Seudah Shlisheet and Dvar Torah every week. Torah topics and a bite to eat. Discussions led by Rabbi Rod Glogower and other local scholars. Home hospitality available for Shabbat meals. UM Hillel.

Shabbat Services: BIC. 9:30 a.m. Morning childcare from 10 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

Shabbat Services: AA Reconstructionist Havurah. Learners' Service held first or second Saturday each month at the JCC from 10 a.m.–noon. Discussion-based format with changing topics, focusing on historical, geographical, and political traditions of different parts of traditional service each month. Regular morning service generally held on the second or third Saturday each month at the JCC from 10 a.m.–noon. Traditionally-based, with music plus a lengthy Torah discussion. For info, email info@aarecon.org or call 913-9705 or visit www.aarecon.org.

Shabbat Services: Chabad. Morning services at 9:45 a.m. Afternoon services 45 minutes before sundown.

Shabbat Services: Pardes Hannah. Generally meets the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month. Call 663-4039 for more information. 10 a.m. Led by Rabbi Elliot Ginsburg.

Shabbat Services: TBE. Torah Study with Rabbi Levy at 8:50 a.m. Morning Minyan with Rabbi Delson and lay leaders at 9:30 a.m. Sanctuary Service at 10 a.m. most weeks. Call the office at 665-4744 or consult website at www.templebethemeth.org for service details.

Home Hospitality for Shabbat and Holiday Meals: AAOM. Call 662-5805 in advance.

Home Hospitality and Meals: Chabad. Every Shabbat and Holiday. Call 995-3276 in advance.

Phone numbers and addresses of frequently listed organizations

Ann Arbor Orthodox Minyan (AAOM)
1429 Hill Street 994-5822

Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah (AARH)
P.O. Box 7451, Ann Arbor 913-9705

Beth Israel Congregation (BIC)
2000 Washtenaw Ave. 665-9897

Chabad House
715 Hill Street 995-3276

EMU Hillel
965 Washtenaw Ave., Ypsilanti 482-0456

Jewish Community Center (JCC)
2935 Birch Hollow Drive 971-0990

Jewish Cultural Society (JCS)
2935 Birch Hollow Drive 975-9872

Jewish Family Services (JFS)
2245 South State Street 769-0209

Jewish Federation
2939 Birch Hollow Drive 677-0100

Pardes Hannah
2010 Washtenaw Ave. 761-5324

Temple Beth Emeth (TBE)
2309 Packard Road 665-4744

UM Hillel
1429 Hill Street 769-0500

Shabbat Candlelighting

November 2	***5:04 p.m.***
November 9	***4:56 p.m.***
November 16	***4:49 p.m.***
November 23	***4:44 p.m.***
November 30	***4:41 p.m.***

Vitals

Mazel tov

Hannah Aronow on her bat mitzvah, October 6.
Jane Mintz on her bat mitzvah, October 27.
Joel Appel-Kraut on his bar mitzvah, November 3.
Jeffrey Spoon and Terri Ginsburg, and Elliot Ginsburg and Linda Jo Doctor on the birth of their grandson, Asher Bernard Ginsburg, son of Jacob Ginsburg and Amy Bennecoff.
Adam and Kelly Kean on the birth of their son, Seamus Foster Kean.
Steven and Stefani Weiss on the marriage of their son, Jonathon, to Ariela Zonderman.
Judi and Ed Davidson on the engagement of their son, A.J. Davidson, to Lindsey Johnson.
Amy and Andrew Paberzs, on the marriage of their daughter, Anna, to Matthew Modansky on September 2.
Lesli and Mark Rosenwasser on the engagement of their son, Bradley, Rosenwasser to Rebecca Grekin.

Condolences

Ruth Siegel on the death of her son, David Siegel, September 19.
Kjirsten (Rich) Blander on the death of her mother, Donna Kay Johnson, September 16.
Roger (Linda) Grekin on the death of his father, John (Jack) Grekin, October 8.

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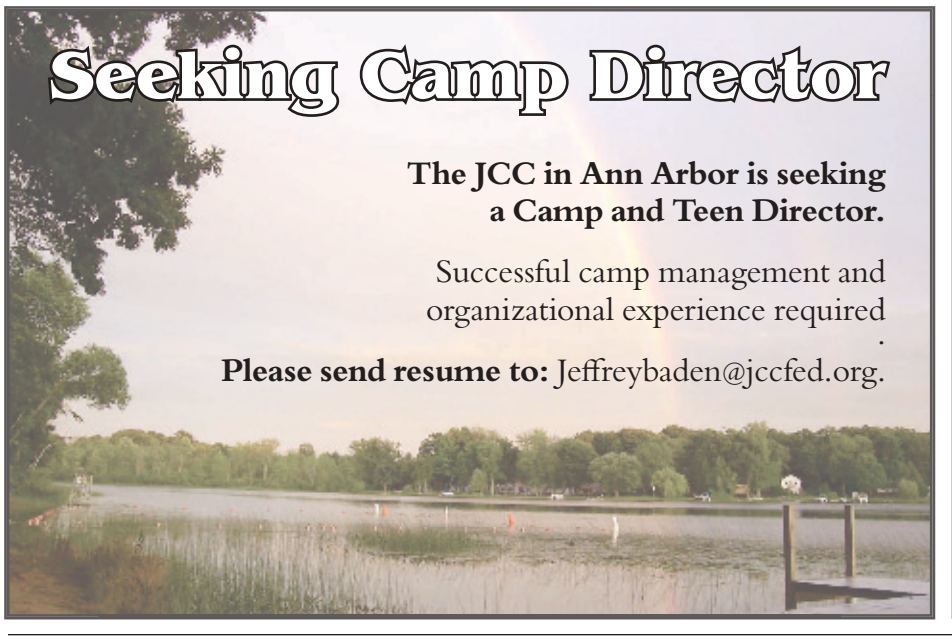
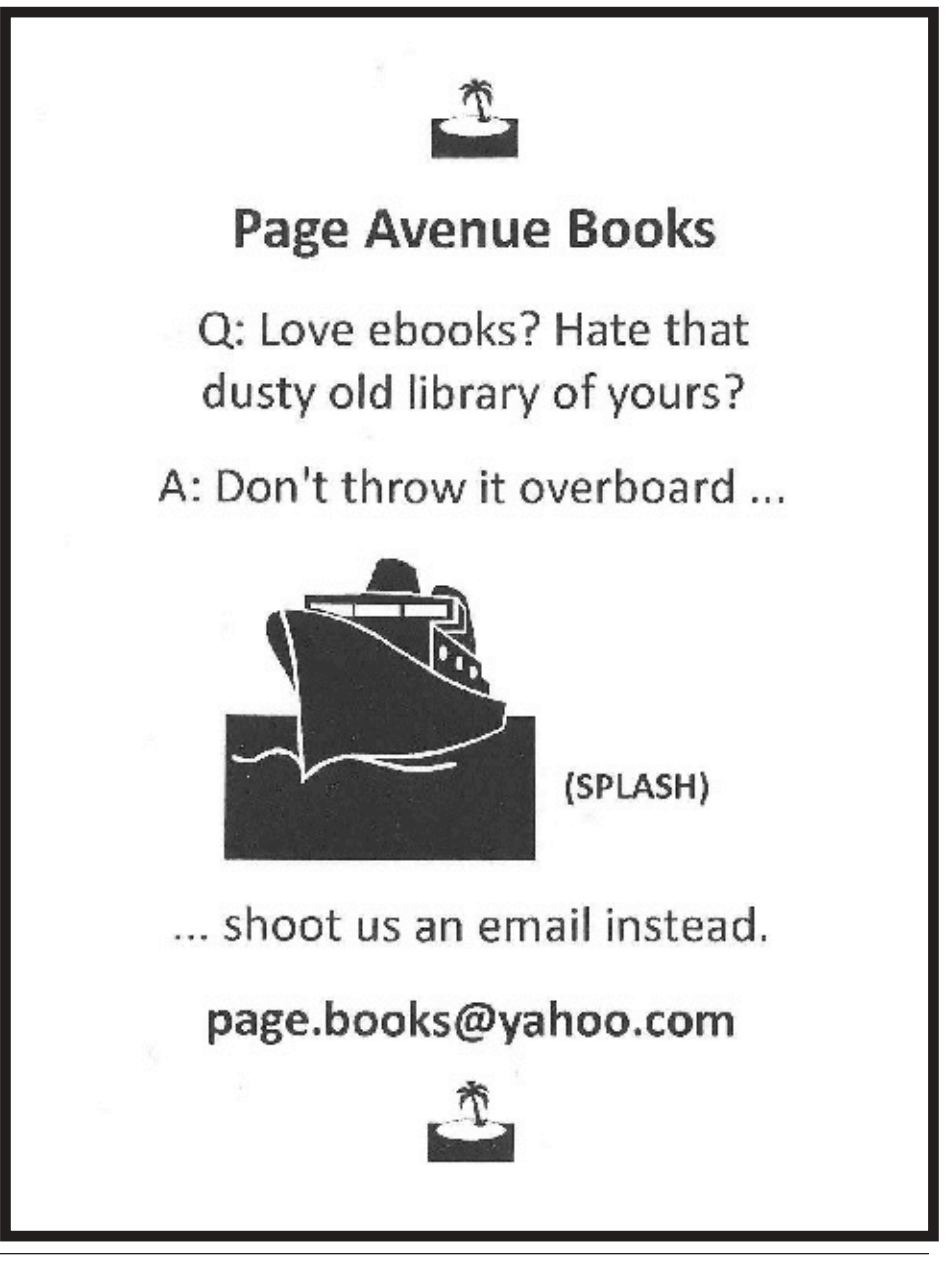
Correction

We heard from Sarah Okin from Jewish Family Services with two corrections for their article in the October 2012 *Washtenaw Jewish News*. Judie Lax, not Carol Amster, is a member of the Herb Amster Center Professional Advisory Council. Also, there was an omitted word in paragraph four. The correct wording should have been: "Our goal is not to line our pockets, it's to do good things, but to remember the bottom line as Herb Amster taught."





Please answer the phone on December 16 and make a meaningful donation to the Jewish Federation Annual Campaign!

Your support of Federation helps us aid impoverished elderly people in the former Soviet Union and support our seniors in Ann Arbor. It also builds bridges between Arab and Jewish children in Israel and bonds between local and Israeli teens. You help us support lifelong Jewish engagement through a host of local beneficiary agencies and programs.

Thank you for being our partner in Building Jewish Community Together!
If you miss our call, please donate online www.jewishannarbor.org.

Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor